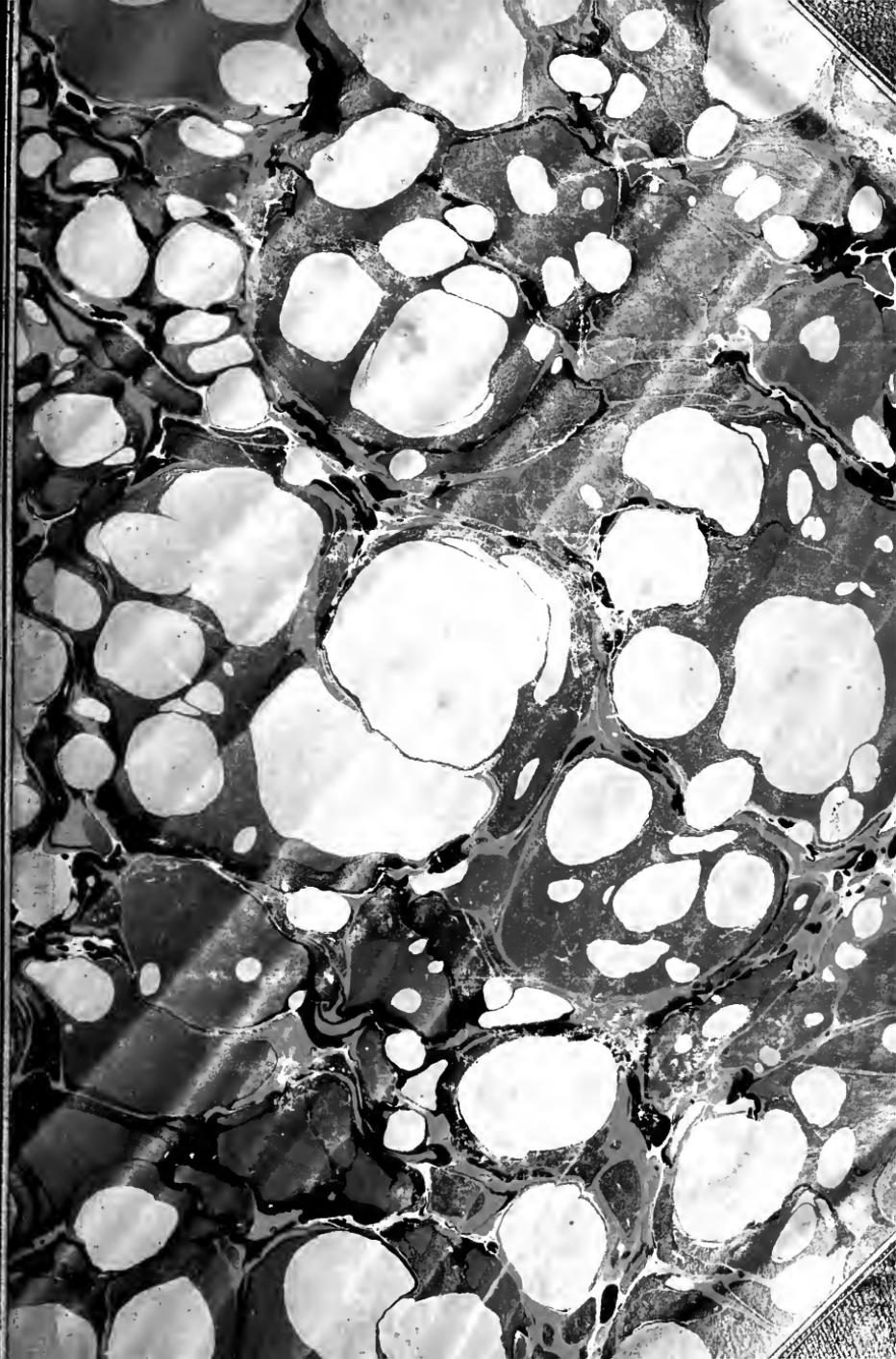


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TINAILI GATEHOUSE.

A
TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
PARISH OF TIXALL,
IN THE
COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

BY SIR THOMAS CLIFFORD, BAR^T.
AND
ARTHUR CLIFFORD, ESQ.

PARIS:

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COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

To elucidate Local History, in the manner in whch it ought to be elucidated, is, to rescue the worthy from oblivion ; to delineate the changes of manners, and the progress of arts ; to call back to the fancy, the pomp and splendour of ages that are gone : to restore the ruined castle ; to repeople the deserted mansion ; and bid, for a moment, the grave render back its inhabitants to the fond eye of regret.

Censura Literaria, vol. i. p. 50.

To His Royal Highness CHARLES PHILIP of France,

MONSIEUR,

Colonel-General of the National Guards of France,

And of the Swiss and Grisons,

etc. etc. etc.

SIR,

Permit us to express our most grateful sense of the obliging condescension which allows us to inscribe with your illustrious name, this description of a place which your Royal Highness has sometimes honoured with a visit, and of which you have often spoken in the most flattering terms of approbation. This distinguished mark of your Royal Highness's favour, gives a lustre and a value to our Work, which it could not otherwise have ex-

expected to attain : and it affords us an opportunity, which we highly prize, of proclaiming the heart-felt sentiments of respect and attachment with which we have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your Royal Highness's

Most humble,

And most devoted Servants,

THOMAS CLIFFORD,
ARTHUR CLIFFORD.

Paris, January 13, 1818.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The Authors of this Work beg leave to express their obligations to Mr. Pipe Wolferstan for his kind assistance, and for some valuable communications ; and also to Mr. Hamper of Birmingham. They desire likewise to make their acknowledgements to Mr. Littleton of Teddesley Park, M. P. for enabling them to adorn the work with a Portrait of his and their illustrious ancestor, Judge Littleton ; and to Mr. Edward Jerningham, for allowing them to engrave his original Miniature of the unfortunate Viscount Safford.

AN
HISTORICAL
AND
TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
PARISH OF TIXALL.

THE parish of Tixall, (which was anciently written Tiche-sale, (1) Ticks-hall, and Tyxale), is situated two miles east of the borough town of Stafford, and about twelve miles to the north-west of the city of Litchfield. It lies in the very middle of Staffordshire, and nearly in the centre of England. The earliest account which I have been able to find of this parish, is contained in the following passages, extracted from Domesday-book. In that ancient and invaluable record, the parish of Tixall is thus described :

Terra Comitis Rogerii—In Pireholle Hundred.—Ipse comes

(1) Possibly, the hall of Tyche, or Tycho, a name known in Denmark—as Tycho Brahe, the famous astronomer.

tenet Tichesale, et Henricus Ferrieres de eo—Ibi dimidium virgatæ terræ—Terra est quatuor carucatarum.—In dominio est una carucata cum uno villano—Ibi duæ acræ prati silva tres quarentenas longa, et duas lata—Valet decem solidos—Elmundus tenuit.

Terra Roberti de Statford, in Pirheolle Hundred.

Isdem Rob.^{us} tenet in Tichesale tres partes unæ hidæ, et Hugo de eo. Et Alricus et Ormar tenuerunt, et liberi fuerunt. Terra est sex carucatarum.—In dominio est una, et tres servi, et septem villani, et duo bordarii cum duobus carucatis—Ibi sex acræ prati—Silva unam leucam longa, et tres quarentenas lata—Valet triginta solidos. (1)

The land of Earl Roger—In Pireholle Hundred. (2)

The earl himself holds Tichesale, and Henry Ferriers holds of him. There, is half a virgate of land.—The arable land contains four carucates—One carucate is in demesue, with one villan.—There, are two acres of meadow—a wood, three furlongs long, and two broad.—It is worth ten shillings—Elmundus held it.

The land of Robert de Statford in Pireholle Hundred.

The same Robert holds in Tichesale three parts of a hide, and Hugo holds of him. Alric and Ormar held it, and were free. There are six carucates of arable land. One is in demesue, and three serfs, and seven villans, and two borderers, with two carucates. There, are six acres of meadow, a wood a mile long, and three furlongs broad. (5) It is worth thirty shillings. (4)

(1) Domesday, in com. Staff. Vol. 1. p. 248-49. Printed by order of the House of Commons in 1783.

(2) Pyrehill, is still the name of the hundred in which Tixall lies.

(3) It is difficult now to conjecture where this extensive tract of woodland, which seems to have covered nearly half the parish, was situated; perhaps, in that part which was afterwards converted into a park.

(4) See Appendix, No. I.

By this extract from Domesday-book, it appears, that Tixall was given by the Conqueror, partly to Earl Roger, (a) and partly to Robert de Statford, or Stafford; (b) that Henry Ferriers, (c) and Hugo (1) held under them: and that Elmund, (2) Alric, and Ormar, were the original Saxon proprietors before the Norman conquest.

The family of Earl Roger was, in a few years, utterly extirpated out of the kingdom; but the various branches of Stafford, and Ferrers, continued to flourish for many centuries in great

(a) See note a, at the end of the description of Tixall.

(b) See note b.

(c) See note c.

(1) Son of Earl Roger---See note a.

(2) Elmund, Alric, and Ormar, who are mentioned in this extract from Domesday-book, were the unfortunate Saxon proprietors, or tenants, who were dispossessed by the Conqueror, to make room for his favoured Normans. Of these, Alric appears to have been a man of considerable consequence. Ormar and he are here styled *liberi, freeemen*; and in another part of Domesday-book, Alric is called *Teinus Regis Edwardi*, a royal thane, which was the highest rank of nobility among the Saxons. He is stated to have formerly held Efnefeld, now Envile, the seat of Lord Stamford, *cum soca*; that is to say, with jurisdiction over a certain district extending through inferior appendages held of a barony or manor; and paying suit to its courts, etc. He held several estates under K. Edward, and at the time of the survey had one carucate of land in Ridware, under the Bishop of Chester. There is a ford in the river Sow, opposite Tixall, called Hollisford, and a meadow adjoining, called Hollis Meadow; which names appear to be corrupted from Alric's Ford, and Alric's Meadow. These oppressed Saxons now thought themselves happy to be allowed, to hold as vassals, under the king, or some great Norman baron, a part of those lands, of which they had formerly been lords and masters.

splendour and power : and among their descendants, are to be found some of the most noble and illustrious families in England at this day.

Upon the death of Earl Roger, his part of Tixall devolved with his other estates in England, to Hugh de Montgomery, his second son ; who being slain in battle, in the year 1098, Roger de Bellesme, of Normandy, his eldest brother, obtained possession of the English estates, on paying a fine of 5,000*l.* to the king. (*) In 1102, in consequence of his attainder, and the confiscation of all his property in England, his share of Tixall was probably annexed to the barony of Stafford ; and it seems likely that it continued to be a dependancy of that barony, till the attainder of Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Henry VIII.

Early in the 12th century, Tixall appears to have been possessed by the family of Wasteneys. (2) This name of Wasteneys, or Gasteneys, is found among the list of Normans of distinction, who came over with the Conqueror, and was probably derived from *Le Gastinois*—(Wastinium or Vastinium Lat.) a province of France, which is a subdivision of the district called the Orleanois. (3) It continued in the possession of this family, for many generations, till the reign of Richard II., when Roger de Wasteneys had an only daughter, called Rose, who inheriting her father's estates, married Sir John Merston, Knt. : and they having no issue, in the year 1469, sold the reversion of Tixall, after their death, to Sir Thomas Littleton, at that time a judge

(*) Dugdale, Baron. vol. 1. p. 28.

(2) Tixall Evidences. Stowe's Chron. p. 108. English Baronet. vol. 1. p. 533.

(3) See note 2.

of the court of common pleas.(e) This Sir Thomas Littleton, was the famous lawyer, whose "Treatise on Tenures" is so justly celebrated, as well for its own merits, as for the ample commentary with which it has been illustrated by Sir Edward Coke.(f)

Sir William Littleton, eldest son of Sir Thomas, inherited Tixall. He married Ellen, daughter and coheiress of William Walsh, Esq. of Wanlip, in the county of Leicester, by Mary, daughter and coheiress of Richard Byron, Esq. of Clayton, in Lancashire.(i) By her, he had a daughter, and only child, Joan de Littleton, who married Sir John Aston, of Haywood, knight banneret. By this marriage, Tixall, and Wanlip came to the family of Aston.(g) Sir Edward Aston, son and heir of Sir John, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII. transferred his residence from Haywood to Tixall; and built there a magnificent mansion, of which the venerable ruins still remain. It descended from him, to his grandson, Sir Walter Aston, who was made a knight of the Bath, at the coronation of James I.; was one of the first English baronets; and finally, in the year 1627, was

(e) See note e.

(f) See note f.

(i) Ex stemm. Fam. de Aston, penes Dom. Clifford de Tixall, Barnethum.

Among the Family Evidences at Tixall, there is a fragment of a letter addressed by Dugdale, the famous antiquarian, to his son, in order that he might deliver it to Lord Aston. The following passage is a part of this fragment. "Tixhall came to them by a daughter and heire of Welsh, not many ages since; which daughter marryed to Littleton of Frankley, (in Worcestershire) which Littleton^{by} her had a daughter and heire marryed to Sir John Aston, a knight banneret. But before that, it was in the family of Wasteneys for many descents."

(g) See note g.

created Baron Aston, of Forfar, in the kingdom of Scotland. From him the estate of Tixall descended, in lineal succession, to James, fifth Lord Aston: who married the Lady Barbara Talbot, daughter of George, fourteenth Earl of Shrewsbury; but dying in the year 1750, without male issue, his estates were equally divided between his two daughters and coheiresses: 1. Mary, married to Sir Walter Blount, Bart. of Sodington and Mawley, in the county of Worcester: 2 Barbara, wife of the Hon. Thomas Clifford, fourth son of Hugh, third Lord Clifford, of Chudleigh, in Devonshire. (n) Tixall fell to the lot of the Hon. Barbara Clifford, who died in 1786, and upon the death of her husband, the Hon. Thomas Clifford, the year following, the estate of Tixall devolved to their eldest son, Sir Thomas Hugh Clifford, Bart. the present possessor.

*A List of Persons and Families, who were proprietors
of the Parish of Tixall, at the period of the Con-
quest, and since, down to the present time.*

| | |
|--|------|
| Elmund, Alric, Ormar, (Saxons)..... | 1066 |
| Roger de Montgomeri, Earl of Shrewsbury, Chiches- ter, and Arundel..... | 1086 |
| Robert de Toeni, or de Stafford..... | |
| Hugh de Montgomeri, second son of Earl Roger..... | 1094 |
| Robert de Bellesme, eldest son of Earl Roger..... | 1098 |
| In the crown or annexed to the barony of Stafford..... | 1102 |
| Family of Wasteneys—from about 1120 to..... | 1469 |
| Rose de Wasteneys, married to Sir John Merston, Knt... | — |
| Sir Thomas Littleton..... | 1481 |
| His widow, during her life..... | — |

(n) See note n.

| | |
|---|------|
| Sir Wm. Littleton, their eldest son..... | 1505 |
| Joan de Littleton, married to Sir John Aston, knt. bant.. | 1507 |
| The Family of Aston..... | — |
| James, fifth Lord Aston..... | 1747 |
| The Hon. Mary and Barbara Aston..... | 1750 |
| The Hon. Thomas Clifford..... | 1768 |
| Sir Thomas Hugh Clifford, Bart..... | 1787 |

Having thus given a summary account of the ancient state of the parish of Tixall, and of its various possessors, from the conquest, down to the present time ; I shall now proceed to the topographical and historical description of the parish itself, and of the most remarkable places in its immediate neighbourhood : and shall begin by describing its boundaries.

BOUNDARIES.

The parish of Tixall is bounded on the north, by Hopton-heath, on the east, by Ingestrie Park, and the river Trent : on the west, by Beacon Hill, and the lands of St. Thomas Priory ; and on the south-west, and south, by the river Sow : by the wild romantic knolls, and hanging woods of Cannock Chase ; and the highly-ornamented scenery of Shugborough. It is a peninsula, formed by the rivers Sow, and Trent; the former of which, though the larger stream, loses its name, as it falls into the Trent, at the village of Great Haywood: where the parish also joins to the more ancient and original property of the Astons.

HOPTON-HEATH.

Hopton-heath, (*) the northern boundary of Tixall parish, is the property of Earl Talbot: and was inclosed about thirty years ago, by the father of the present Earl. This spot is celebrated in English history, as having been the scene of a bloody battle, which was fought there, on a Sunday, the 19th March, 1643, between the king's troops, commanded by Spencer Compton, Earl of Northampton, and the Parliamentary forces, under Sir John Gell, and Sir Wm. Brereton. Two of the Earl's sons, James, Lord Compton, and Sir Charles Compton, fought by his side; but the former, being wounded in the leg, in the beginning of the action, was forced to leave the field. Soon after, the Earl's horse was shot under him; yet he continued fighting on foot, and killed with his own hand a colonel, who had advanced to attack him. At length, his helmet being struck off with the butt-end of a musket, and his person left exposed and defenceless; the enemy offered him quarter, but he resolutely replied, "*I scorn to take quarter from such base rogues and rebels as you are.*" Immediately, a blow from a halbert, on the back of his head, and a deep wound in his face, brought him to the ground, and he was killed upon the spot. Thus fell this gallant nobleman, in the forty-second year of his age. The parliamentary generals refused to give up the dead body to his sons, or to allow his surgeon to embalm it: but they afterwards carried it to Derby, where it was interred in All Saints' church in that city. (2) Since the inclosure of Hopton-heath, human bones,

(*) Hopton, quasi Upton, or High-town, this heath being the highest ground hereabouts.

(2) Clarendon, Hist. Rebell. vol. 3. p. 149-50. Shaw, Hist. of Staff.

with fragments of military weapons, have sometimes been turned up by the plough ; of which a few have been preserved, and are deposited in a farm-house near the heath. This circumstance corresponds exactly with what was prophesied by Virgil, concerning the plains of Pharsalia, in the following beautiful lines, at the conclusion of the first Georgic :

Scilicet et tempus veniet, cum finibus illis,
 Agricola incurvo terram molitus aratro,
 Exesa inveniet scabrâ rubigine pila ;
 Aut gravibus rastris galeas pulsabit inanes,
 Grandiaque effossis mirabitur ossa sepulcris.

Georg. i. l. 493.

The time will come, when in those fatal fields,
 As to the plough the opening furrow yields,
 Some labouring swain shall find the rust-worn pike,
 Or with huge harrows hollow helmets strike ;
 From the deep trench shall bones of heroes raise,
 And fixed in wonder on the fragments gaze.

INGESTRIE.

Ingestrie, (anciently called Ingestrent, (1) and in Domesday-book, *Gestreon*), one of the eastern boundaries of Tixall parish, was a part of the great barony of Stafford, granted to Robert de Toeni, by William the Conqueror, and was then valued at 15s. 5d. In the reign of Henry II. it was held by *Eudo*, or *Ivo de Mitton*, or *Mutton*: but some years after, it passed from this family to that of *Chetwynd*. In the curious ancient record,

(1) Ingestrent, from *ing*, in Danish, a meadow, *i. e.* Trent Meadow. In the register of Church-Eaton, in 1658, and in other old records it is so called.

called *Testa de Nevill*, (2) it appears, that about 19 Hen. II. Ingestrie and Mitton were held by the heir of *Ralph de Mitton*; but that in the following reign, they were held by Sir Philip de Chetwynd. How these estates passed from the Mittons to the Chetwynds, is clearly shewn in the following narration :

“ Neare to Hopton, on the same side of Trent, lyeth Ingestrie, w^{ch} Hugo held of Rob. de Stadford 20 Conq. but whether he were paternall ancestor to the Muttons, who not long after possessed it, is hard to be determined. In the time of Hen 2. Ivo (or Eudo) de Mutton was L^d of Ingestre and Mutton. He gave certain lands in Ingestre, to y^e Priory of St. Thomas (then newly founded) and became a Lay-brother there; leaving his possessions to his son S^r Ralph de Mutton kt. who was also Lord of y^e Manors of Gratwich, Rewle, and Ruge, co. Staff. and of Drumheniskin in y^e county of Louth (or Uriel) in y^e province of Ulster, in Ireland, w^{ch} last was given him by Bertram de Verdon (a great Baron in those times.) This S^r Ralph had issue Adam, and Philip, both kts.—to Sir Adam, Henry de Audith-legh (or Audeley) in the time of H. 5, gave all y^e lands at Brereton (except Radmore): he and his heirs paying yearly a paire of gilt spurrs att the feast of St. James for all services except forreign. This Sir Adam was likewise a Benefactor to the Convent of St. Thomas, where he had the presentation of a Canon granted to him and his heirs for ever, to celebrate divine service for the souls of Sir Philip de Mutton, his brother, for y^e health of his own soul, and for those of his ancestors and successors. He bore

(2) *Testa Nevilli*, or *Testa de Nevill*, is an ancient record, kept by the king's remembrancer, in the Exchequer: and contains the knights' fees, throughout the greatest part of England, with inquisitions of lands escheated. It got the name from its compiler, *Johan. de Nevil*, one of the itinerant justices in the reigne of Hen. III.

for his arms (as appears by his seals) Frettie with a Canton : in allusion, I suppose to the Audleys ; a custom frequently used in that age, by such as had a dependance on great persons. He died about y^e 40. H. 5. leaving by Isabella his wife, Ralph his son, then under age (who died not long after without issue) and Isabella, an only daughter, married to S^r Philip de Chetwynd, co. Salop, kt. who 56 H. 5. was seized of Ingestre, Gratwich, and Mutton (all w^{ch} were then certified to be held of y^e barony of Stafford by two kts. fees and an half) as also of Drumheniskin in Ireland · and after the death of Sir Philip de Mutton without issue (which happened about 16. Ed. 1.) Philip de Chetwynd, son of S^r Philip and Isabella before mentioned, remained sole heir to that family ; being in his mother's right, possest of Ingestre etc. (co. Staff.) whose son S^r Philip, 11. E. 2. obtained a charter of Free-warren in all his said lands, and by marrying Alicia, daughter and coheir of S^r Ralph de Grendon, in Warw.^{re} 55. E. 1. became possest of a fair estate in Grendon, Dordon, and Waverton, all which Lands and Lordships in y^e Counties of Warw. and Staff. except Rugge (a part whereof is now enjoyed by a younger branch of this family) are, by a continued succession, descended to Walter Chetwynd, now of Ingestre, Esq^r, 1679." (1)

(1) The above-cited passage is extracted from a folio MS. compiled by this W. Chetwynd ; though he never published it, nor any other work. He was intimately connected with all the eminent antiquaries of his time. Burton, author of the "History of Leicestershire," one of the first county-histories published in England, left him his MSS. Erdeswick's papers also came into his possession: and it was he who introduced Dr. Plot into Staffordshire, and engaged him to write the natural history of that county. Dr. Plot has mentioned W. Chetwynd with great respect; and has given an interesting account of the building and completion of Ingeshire church. All the above-mentioned valuable MSS. of Burton, and

This Walter Chetwynd, was a great antiquary, and a man of learning, liberality, and piety. In 1673, he began to rebuild the parish church of Ingeshire, and completed it in three years. One of his ancestors, Wm. Chetwynd, was Gentleman Usher of the Chamber, to king Henry VII. and in the 9th year of that king's reign, was most barbarously assassinated on *Tixall-heath*, as will be afterwards more particularly related.

Walter Chetwynd, the antiquary, died without issue; when his estates devolved to Captain Chetwynd, his near relation: whose eldest son, Walter, was twenty years member of parliament, for the borough of Stafford, from 1702 to 1722. Being a firm and zealous adherent of the house of Hanover, he was, in the year 1717, created Viscount Chetwynd, of the kingdom of Ireland: but dying without issue, in 1756, John, his next brother succeeded him in the title and estates.

Erdeswick, besides considerable ones of W. Chetwynd's own writing, though carefully put up in a box, were unhappily mislaid on the repairing of Ingeshire-hall, and continued in obscurity, till a few years since, when they were again discovered at that place. Those of W. Chetwynd's own writing, consist principally of two folio volumes, beautifully, as well as accurately written; the one, a vellum chartulary, containing copies of all the records of the Chetwynd family, with elegant drawings of monuments and seals, and of the church and house at Ingeshire: the other, (which is the book whence the above-cited extract is taken) presents a clear and concise account of nearly all the parishes, together with pedigrees of the families, in the hundred of Pyrehill. This last MS. which had been lent by Lord Talbot to the Rev. S. Shaw, was after his death for some time in the possession of my learned friend, Samuel, Pipe, Wolferstan, Esq. of Statfold, near Tamworth; by whose kindness, I have been enabled to make several valuable extracts from it, for this work. Mr. Wolferstan, well deserves the encomium bestowed on Erdeswick, by Camden; *venerande antiquitatis cultor maximus.*

This John, Lord Chetwynd, had a daughter, Catherine, who married in 1748, the Hon. John Talbot; and on her father's death, in 1767, inherited his estates: but the title of viscount descended to a younger brother of Lord Chetwynd.

The Hon. John Talbot, was third son of Charles, first Lord Talbot, who in 1775, was appointed lord chancellor; and the same year, was created a peer of Great Britain, by the title of Lord Talbot, Baron of Hensol, in the county of Glamorgan. (1) He died in his office of chancellor, in the year 1757, the fifty-second year of his age, universally honoured and beloved, and justly lamented as a great national loss.

“ He was endowed with admirable talents, which were improved by a liberal and generous education, suitable to the dignity of his extraction; and by applying to the study of the law, advanced himself, by real merit, without servility, or the arts of corruption. Both as a pleader, and a judge, he displayed an uncommon fund of knowledge and eloquence; and manifested an inviolable integrity upon all occasions. Although in place, he maintained the independence and spirit of the most celebrated patriots of any age or country. He never prostituted the power of office to ministerial or other dictates; nor ever stained it by an act of avarice: nor were his own family and kindred the sole objects of his care and beneficence. He was the munificent patron of literature, and learned men; and the sure relief of the distressed.”(2) His family was a branch of the ancient and il-

(1) “ Lord King resigning the office of chancellor, it was conferred upon Mr. Talbot, solicitor-general, together with the title of baron; a promotion, that reflected honour upon those by whom it was advised. He possessed the spirit of a Roman senator, the elegance of an Atticus, and the integrity of a Cato.”—Smollet, Hist. of George II. 1733.

(2) Collins, Peer. art. Talbot.

Iustrious house of Talbot ; and he was lineally descended from Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Grafton, in Worcestershire ; who was third son of John, second Earl of Shrewsbury, knt. banneret, and knight of the garter, and one of the most renowned warriors and statesmen of his time.

Where is the great Alcides of the field,
 Valiant Lord Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury ?
 Created for his rare success in arms,
 Great Earl of Wexford, Waterford, and Valence ;
 Lord Talbot of Goodrich and Urchinfield,
 Lord Strange of Blackmere, Lord Verdun of Alton,
 Lord Crumwell of Wingfield, Lord Furnival of Sheffield,
 The thrice victorious Lord of Falconbridge :
 Knight of the noble order of Saint George,
 Worthy Saint Michael, and the Golden Fleece ;
 Great marshal to King Henry the Sixth,
 Of all his wars within the realm of France. (1)

Charles, eldest son of the chancellor, a most promising youth, died before his father, in 1753. He had made the tour of Europe with Thomson, the author of the “ Seasons :” to whom Lord Talbot was a liberal patron, and kind benefactor. During their travels, Thomson conceived the plan of his poem on “ Liberty ;” but while he was employed in writing it, after their return to England, Mr. Talbot died. The poem opens with the following affectionate tribute of sorrow to the memory of his friend :

O my lamented Talbot ! while with thee,
 The muse gay roved the glad Hesperian round,
 And drew th’ inspiring breath of ancient arts ;
 Ah ! little thought she, her returning verse

(1) Shakespeare, King Hen. VI. part i. act. iv. sc. 7.

Should sing our darling subject to thy shade !
 And does thy mystic veil from mortal beam
 Involve those eyes, where every virtue smiled,
 And all the father's candid spirit shone ?
 The light of reason, pure without a cloud ;
 Full of the generous heart, the mild regard ;
 Honour disdaining blemish, cordial faith,
 And limpid truth that looks the very soul.

Thomson also composed a poem “ To the memory of Lord Talbot;” which breathes the most noble and exalted sentiments of honour, patriotism, and virtue : it is equally creditable to the chancellor, and the poet, and reflects great honour on Lord Talbot’s family, to whom it is addressed.

William, second son of Lord Talbot, succeeded his father in his title and estates ; and in the first year of his present majesty’s reign, was appointed lord steward of the household, and advanced to the dignity of an earl. As lord steward, he walked at the nuptial procession of their majesties, Sept. 8, 1761, taking place of all earls, by virtue of his office. At the solemnity of their coronation, his lordship, as lord high steward of England, carried St. Edward’s crown : pronounced the words of homage to his majesty, in the name of the earls ; and attended Mr. Dymocke, the champion, when he made the formal challenge.(1)

Earl Talbot died in 1782, without male issue ; when the earldom became extinct, but the barony devolved to his nephew, John Chetwynd Talbot, eldest son of the Hon. John Talbot, and Catherine Chetwynd, above-mentioned : who, in 1784, was created Viscount Ingestrie, and Earl Talbot. He married Lady Charlotte Hill, daughter of the Marquis of Downshire, and sister to the present Marchioness of Salisbury ; by whom he had issue,

(1) Collins, Peer. *ibid.*

Charles Chetwynd Talbot, the present earl: who, in 1800, married Miss Lambart, daughter of Charles Lambart, Esq. of Beaufort, in Ireland.

Ingestrie is a small parish, nearly all in demesne. It is bounded on the east, by the Trent, from which it rises by a gradual ascent, till it joins the parish of Tixall. The parts contiguous to Tixall are the Ley-park, adjoining to which is the Deer-park, and the Pleasure-ground, commonly called the Wilderness. This is a handsome tract of forest-scenery ; one part being a close thicket, the other, an open grove of majestic oaks : some of which are above 12 or 14 feet in girth, at five feet from the ground. The approach from the north is through an avenue of beech trees, of uncommon size and beauty. Beneath this magnificent shelter, stands the ancient mansion, on the declivity of the hill. The south front is a fine piece of architecture, of the time and style of James I., and its appearance is very striking and venerable. The present earl has lately pulled down the north front, which was of more modern date ; and with that good taste and discernment, which are conspicuous in all his improvements, has erected a new one, in the same style of architecture as the south front : by which, not only the exterior grandeur of the whole is much increased, but a noble suite of apartments has been formed within. His lordship has also completed a handsome approach to Ingestrie, from the south : and for this purpose, has planted a saltmarsh, which, before it was drained, was almost incapable of vegetation ; and has removed from the Pleasure-ground, an ancient triumphal arch, which with some additional buildings, and decorations, now forms an elegant and appropriate entrance-lodge.

THE RIVER TRENT.

Our progress through the boundaries of the parish of Tixall, has now brought us to the river Trent : which is not however its immediate boundary, being separated from it, by a narrow strip of Haywood-Liberty which intervenes. The name of this river has puzzled and amused the etymologists. Some derive it from the French word *Trente*, and suppose that it obtained this appellation from receiving thirty tributary streams ; (1) to which Milton alludes in one of his juvenile poems :

The Trent; which like some earth-born giant spreads
His thirty arms along the indented meads.

It is also said to produce thirty sorts of fish ; to which Drayton adds, that thirty abbies decorated its banks. (2) Omitting other fanciful etymologies, I proceed to inform the reader, that this noble river, the third in England, in size and consequence, takes its rise from *three* springs or heads, in the north-west extremity of Staffordshire ; one issues out of New Pool, the other two rise not very far from each other, at the foot of Mole Cop, a mountainous ridge which divides this country from Cheshire. (3)

Soon after the union of its three streams, the Trent passes about a mile from Stanley, a small village, from which never-

(1) Camd. Brit. in com. Staff.

(2) Polyolb. Song xi.

(3) In seeking for the derivation of the names of towns, it seems natural to search for them, in the language which prevailed at the time, when those towns were first built or founded : but as rivers are coeval with the earth, the etymology of their names should rather be sought in the most

theless, all the great Stanley families take their name : (1) it flows thence to Hilton, once an abbey of Benedictine monks, founded in 1225, by Henry de Audeley ; and which, at the dissolution of monasteries, was transferred in exchange for other lands, to Sir Edward Aston, of Tixall, by Hen. VIII. (2) It next traverses the Staffordshire Potteries, (3) which extend through a series of villages, for nearly seven miles ; and form altogether one of the most remarkable districts in the kingdom. At Stoke, it meets the navigable canal from the Trent to the Mersey, commonly called The Grand Trunk ; which is there carried over the river

ancient or aboriginal language of the country. Upon this principle, the conjectures of Camden, who derives the name of Trent, from *Trente* : and of Pennant, who deduces it from *trie*, three, in Saxon ; are equally erroneous. Richard of Cirencester, in his singularly curious work, “ *De Situ Britanniae* ” in which he gives a description of Britain, in the time of the Romans, calls it *Trivona Fluvius* : which was probably the name it bore at that period ; for it is not to be found in any narrative of later times, nor perhaps in any other work. This name *Trivona* is evidently of British origin, from *trei*, three, and *avon*, a river : the final *a*, being merely a Latin termination : and is very appropriate to the Trent, which springs from three heads at some distance from each other, but soon united in one stream. In like manner, its present name is probably derived from *trei*, three, and *ynten*, together. (See Glossary of British words in Borlase’s “ Cornwall.”)

(1) Erdeswick.

(2) Dugd. Monast. vol. i. Evid. at Tixall.

(3) “ The manufacture of Potter’s ware is very extensive and important ; the value of the manufactured article being as it were a creation of the manufacturer, from a raw material of low value. The Potteries consist of a number of scattered villages, occupying an extent of about ten miles ; and may contain above 20,000 inhabitants, including those who depend upon them for employment and subsistence.” (Pitt’s Agric. Surv. of Staff.)

by an aqueduct. Three miles farther on, it reaches Trentham ; once a priory of regular canons, founded by King Ethelred, about the year 685, and afterwards rebuilt and endowed by Randolph, second Earl of Chester, in the reign of Hen. I. It is now the principal residence of the Marquis of Stafford. Here the Trent is expanded into a fine lake, covering eighty acres of ground ; the western bank of which is adorned with a noble hanging wood. It next runs between Darlaston and Meaford, where are seated two branches of the ancient family of Jervis ; which has gained immortal fame, by the naval exploits of that gallant and intrepid Admiral Earl St. Vincent. (4) Here the roads from Chester and Liverpool to London unite, and cross the river over a handsome stone bridge, of one arch, newly erected. Just behind is Stonefield, lately inclosed ; where, in 1745, the Duke of Cumberland drew up his army to give battle to Prince Charles, who was supposed to be advancing that way. (5) The river gradually enlarging in its course, now flows by the town of Stone ; a place rising rapidly into wealth and consequence, from the influx of trade brought there by the Grand

(4) " Of such as have signalized themselves in the navy, few countries can boast an equal number. To the names of Admiral Leveson, in the reign of Elizabeth, and the Mynors, of Uttoxeter, in the last century, we are proud to add that of the late Lord Anson, of Shugborough, in the present ; and the future historian will expatiate with pleasure on the achievements of Sir Allan Gardiner, (a native of Uttoxeter) and on those of Sir John Jervis, of Meaford, near Stone ; whose late glorious victory over the Spauiards, still cheers every British bosom, and has justly obtained for him the earldom of St. Vincent." (Rev. S. Shaw, Pref. to Hist. of Staff.)

(5) " In future times, posterity will almost doubt the fact, when they read, that a considerable band of mountaineers, undisciplined, unofficered,

Trunk Canal. Here also was a priory, founded by Kenulph, King of Mercia ; but much increased by the barons and earls of Stafford : many of whom were buried in this place. (1) At the dissolution of monasteries, it was purchased by William Compton, a rich merchant, who married Jane, eldest daughter of Sir Walter Aston, of Tixall.

About a mile below Stone, on the banks of the Trent, stands Aston ; once an estate of the Stanleys, from whom it came by marriage to the Heveninghamhs ; from them to the Simeons ; and lastly, to the late Thomas Weld, Esq. of Lulworth-castle, in Dorsetshire ; who sold it a few years since to Earl St. Vincent.

The next place of any note on the banks of this river is Sandon : which from 12. Edw. III. till the reign of James I. nearly 500 years, was the residence of the Erdeswicks : of whom the last and most celebrated was Sampson Erdeswick, the antiquary. (2) It became afterwards the property of the Hamilton family ; and about forty years ago, Lord Archibald, now Duke of Hamilton, built there a handsome stone house, and in a commanding situation ; but disposed of it, before it was compleated, to Nathaniel, first Lord Harrowby. His son, now Earl Harrowby, has erected on a bold woody knoll opposite the south front of the house, a column of the Doric order, which is a conspicuous and ornamental object to the surrounding country. On the north side of it is this inscription :

and half-armed, had penetrated into the centre of an unfriendly country, with one army behind them, and another in their front ; that they rested there a few days, and that they retreated above three hundred miles, with scarcely any loss, continually pressed by a foe, supplied with every advantage that loyalty could bestow." (Pennant, Jour. from Ch. to Lon. p. 50.)

(1) Dugd. Monast.

(2) Eredesw. Antiq. of Staff.

Sacred to the Memory of William Pitt. 1806.

On the south side are these lines :

Gulielmo Pitt
Dudleius Baro Harrowby
Patri patriæ civis
Amico amicus
Mœrens posuit.

Having watered the rich pastures of Ingeshire, about three miles from Sandon, the Trent then comes in sight of Tixall : and here, after having pursued its course from its spring to this place, nearly in a strait direction, the river seems to indulge in many playful and serpentine meanders, as if unwilling to quit the delightful spot ; and indeed, from Tixall to Wolseley, a distance of four miles, it flows through as beautiful a valley as is to be found in any part of England. (1) Its various scenes, rich in every object of rural beauty, luxuriantly picturesque, smiling with verdure, and crowned with plenty, strongly call to mind the poetic fictions of the vale of Tempe, and the pastoral Arcadia ; or, rather, to use the language of Goldsmith :

Here lawns extend that scorn Arcadian pride,
And brighter streams than famed Hydaspes glide. (2)

(1) Armstrong, in his excellent classical poem, "The Art of preserving Health," recommending the amusement of fishing, enumerates some of the most *prolific streams*, and *crystal rivulets*, best adapted to afford this delightful sport : and says,

- - - - - Such through the bounds
Of *pastoral* Stafford, runs the brawling Trent.

B. 3. l. 72.

(2) Traveller, l. 311.

About a mile from Tixall, a portion of the river is diverted from its course, in order to work a corn-mill, which was the ancient *lord's mill* of the Aston family: and was sold by the late Hon. Thomas Clifford, to the Staffordshire and Worcester-shire canal company. It is admirably situated for business, at the spot where that canal falls into the Grand Trunk: and its present proprietors have availed themselves of these advantages, by adding a paper-mill, and an apparatus for grinding colours, to the original concern. Adjoining is a warehouse belonging to the company, and a house and office for the wharfinger, who manages the business of both canals. Here the Staffordshire and Worcester-shire canal is carried across the two arms of the Trent, by two aqueducts, and terminates in a spacious basin, which opens into the Grand Trunk Canal, at the distance of $46\frac{1}{2}$ miles from its other extremity at Stourport, where it communicates with the Severn. By this canal, the Grand Trunk, and the Grand Junction Canal, there is now an uninterrupted communication between the four great rivers to England: the Thames, the Severn, the Trent, and the Mersey; and consequently, a direct trade by water, between London, Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull. (1)

Immediately after passing under the two aqueducts above-mentioned, the Trent unites its branches, and hastens to receive the Sow; which is so far, a more considerable river than

(1) "The perpendicular elevation of the summit of the Staffordshire and Worcester-shire canal, above the level of the tide in the Thames at Brentford, is said to be 385 feet. That of the Grand Trunk Canal, 420: and of the Trent, at its junction with the Dove, 100." (Pitt's, Agric. Survey of Staff. p. 8.)

"Respecting the convenience for conveyance of heavy articles, perhaps no country in England, or even country in the universe of equal extent, is better accommodated with artificial canals. They extend about

itself, but fated to lose its name and consequence in the waters of its more fortunate rival :

O two such silver currents when they meet,
Do glorify the banks that bound them in. (1)

The confluence of the two streams forms a broad sheet of water, which is fordable, having on its left bank the village of Great Haywood ; and on its right, Shugborough, the magnificent seat of Lord Viscount Anson, anciently written Soughborow ; and so called from its situation at the mouth of the Sow. This expanse of water is crossed by a long

200 miles in length, and much facilitate the convenience of bulky and weighty articles, such as coal, limestone, and lime; iron in the ore, or metal; flags, and stone for building; and considerably reduce the expense of carriage. The trade in those articles has consequently been extended to a very great degree, and the population of the neighbourhood, where they are produced, has much increased. The very rapid extension of Birmingham, and also of the Potteries, has been much promoted by canal conveyance. Similar instances are to be found elsewhere. Thus these canals have been a means of considerably increasing population, by enabling the proprietors of mines of iron, coal, and lime, to extend their works, and by that means employ more people in raising manufactures, and transporting the different articles. They cost in execution about 500,000*l.*; and upon an average pay ten per cent. per annum, to the proprietors: they consequently add half a million to the national capital, and 50,000*l.* per annum to its income; and with their consequent extension and improvement of the mines, manufactures, and commerce of the country, not less than double the sums above-stated: and are certainly a great national improvement, as well as accommodation to a trading country."—*Ibid.*

(1) Shakespeare, K. John: act. 2, sc. 2.

and picturesque stone bridge, not wide enough for carriages, which once consisted of forty-three arches ; and was generally said to have the greatest number of arches, and to have been the longest horse, or foot-bridge, in England ; but it is now reduced to fourteen. It was erected by the Earl of Essex, the celebrated favourite of Queen Elizabeth, while he resided at Chartley-castle, about four miles distant, in order to convey his hounds across the river to hunt in Cannock Chase. (1)

Leaving the beautiful vale of Shugborough, the Trent passes on between Wolseley-hall and Bishton, the seat of Mr. Sparrow, to Colton and Bellamore, (2) an ancient seat of the Aston family,

(1) " From the middle of the bridge is a view of very uncommon beauty, varied with almost every thing that nature or art could give to render it delicious. The old church of Colwich, the mansion of the ancient English baron at Wolseley-hall ; the great-windowed mode of building in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, in the house of Ingeshire ; the modern seat at Oak-edge, and the lively improved front of Shugborough, are embellishments proper to our country. Amidst these arise the genuine architecture of China, in all its extravagance ; the dawning of the Grecian, in the mixed Gothic *Gateway at Tixall* : and the chaste buildings of Athens, exemplified by Mr. Stuart." (Pennant, Jour. from Ch. to Lon.)

(2) " Trent, having left Wolseley and Bishton, passes to Colton, and so takes its farewell of Pyrehyll hundred. In 20 Conq. Goisfridus held Colton of Rob. de Stadford, there being then one hide of land, containing six carucates, sixteen acres of meadow, and a mill, with woods a mile long, and three quarters broad, all which were then valued at 5os. and had been in the possession of Odo and Ulfric before the conquest. In the next age, Hardulfe de Gastenois, (or Wasteneys) was lord of it, from whom it came by descent to Sir T. de Wasteneys, Knt. whose daughter and heiress Thomasine, brought it in marriage, temp. Ric. 2. to Sir Nich. de Greseley of Drakelow, Knt. In 7 Jac. Sir Geo. Griesley, Bart. aliened it

now the residence of Edward Blount, Esq. grandson of the last Lord Aston ; and then taking an eastern direction, receives at King's Bromley, the waters of the Blythe, a clear stream, (remarkable for cray fish, trout, and eel,) which rises in the Moorlands of Staffordsire, and waters the noble demesne of Blythfield. It soon after reaches Wichenor, a place famous for the flicht of bacon, which has been kept there for 700 years, as the never yet claimed reward of uninterrupted conjugal harmony. Here the stream divides, and forms several islands, over which the great road from Lichfield to Burton, (a part of the Roman way called Ikenild-street) is carried by three successive bridges. Just below it receives the Tame, and then turning to the north-east, divides Staffordshire from Derbyshire. At Burton, renowned for its ale, its left bank was once decorated by a splendid abbey, which was founded and richly endowed in 1002, by Wulfric, Earl of Mercia ; and in 1546, was bestowed on Sir Wm. Paget : by whose descendant, the present Marquis of Anglesea, its ample revenues are still enjoyed.

Having beautified and enriched the county of Stafford, during a course of more than fifty miles, the Trent swelled by the romantic Dove, runs eastward through Derbyshire ; and at Sharde-

to Sir Walter Aston, (then knight of the Bath, but after Lord Aston, of Forfare, in Scotland) whose son, W. Lord Aston, anno 1658, sold the scite of the manor house and a great part of the demesne to Wm. Chetwynd of Rugeley, Esq. most of the tenements to the several occupants, and the rest (with the royalty and advowson) to his brother Herbert Aston, who had also other lands here by his father's gift, on which he built and resided, giving his house the name of Bellamour, in regard it was finished by the benevolence and affection of his friends."

(Chetwynd's MS.)

low, seven miles south-west of Derby, becomes navigable for large vessels, and here the Grand Trunk Canal terminates, at the distance of ninety-three miles from its other extremity, where it joins the Mersey. Skirting Leicestershire, the Trent is shaded by the venerable oaks of Donnington Park, the antique residence of the Earls of Huntingdon, now the property of the Marquis of Hastings, who has built there a beautiful mansion in the Gothic style. A few miles beyond, it visits the castle and town of Nottingham, and then taking a more northerly direction by Newark, it traverses Lincolnshire, till it meets the mouth of the Ouse, when both rivers lose their names, in the Humber, an estuary from three to six miles in breadth, which carries their united waters into the German ocean.

- - - - - Hail, sacred flood !
 May still thy hospitable swains be blest
 In rural innocence ; thy mountains still
 Teem with the fleecy race ; thy tuneful woods
 For ever flourish, and thy vales look gay
 With flowery meadows, and the golden grain.

BEACON-HILL.

We come now to contemplate the western boundary of Tixall parish, which is formed by the Beacon-hill, and the lands of St. Thomas Priory. This hill, with the grounds about it, and the whole estate, formerly belonging to the canons of St. Thomas, is extra-parochial. It rises abruptly in the midst of an open champaign country, and being crowned with an airy clump of trees, is an agreeable and picturesque feature to the circumjacent neighbourhood. It was no doubt, formerly the station of a beacon or signal. These beacons were high

posts, erected in conspicuous places, on the top of which were fastened barrels filled with pitch ; and were long in familiar use among the primitive Britons, and western Highlanders of Scotland. When it was necessary to rouse the people to arms, in cases of foreign invasion, or other sudden emergencies, these barrels were set fire to in the night, and the flame could be seen at a great distance ; but in the day time, the signal was given by raising a great smoke. In the reign of Edw. III. it was ordered that this sort of alarm should be made with pitch pots, placed on standards, or on elevated buildings, within due distances from each other. (1) To these contrivances, has now succeeded the ingenious invention of telegraphs.

It appears that similar means of giving alarm, or communicating intelligence from distant places, were employed by the Greeks in very ancient times, as is evident from the following lines in the 18th book of Homer's Iliad :

As when from some beleaguered town arise
 The smokes, high-curling to the shaded skies,
 (Seen from some island, o'er the main afar,
 When men distrest hang out the sign of war)
 Soon as the Sun in ocean hides his rays
 Thick on the hills the flaming beacons blaze ;
 With long projected beams the seas are bright,
 And Heaven's high arch reflects the ruddy light.

But the most remarkable instance of the use of this sort of beacons in antiquity, is to be found in the following lively and picturesque description of the manner in which the intelligence of

(1) Chamb. Dic. by Rees. Encycl. Brit. art. Beacon.

the taking of Troy was communicated to Clytemnestra, then at Argos, by Agamemnon. It is in the tragedy of Agamemnon, by Æschylus :

Chorus.

What speed could be the herald of this news ?

CLYTEMNESTRA.

The fire, that from the height of Ida sent
 Its streaming light, as from the announcing flame
 Torch blazed to torch. First Ida to the steep
 Of Lemnos ; Athos' sacred height received
 The mighty splendor ; from the surging back
 Of th' Hellespont, the vigorous blaze held on
 Its smiling way, and like the orient sun
 Illumes with golden-gleaming rays the head
 Of rocky Macetas ; nor lingers there,
 Nor wioks unheedful, but its warning flames
 Darts to the streams of Euripus, and gives
 Its glittering signal to the guards that hold
 Their high watch on Mesapius. These enkindle
 The joy-denouncing fires, that spread the blaze
 To where Erica hoar, its shaggy brow
 Waves rudely. Unimpaired the active flame
 Bounds o'er the level of Asopus, like
 Thej ocund Moon, and on Cithæron's steep
 Wakes a successive flame ; the distant watch
 Agnize its shine, and raise a brighter fire,
 That o'er the lake Gorgopis streaming holds
 Its rapid course, and on the mountain heights
 Of Ægiplanctus huge, swift-shooting spreads
 The lengthened line of light. Thence onwards waves
 Its fiery tresses, eager to ascend
 The crags of Prone, frowning in their pride
 O'er the Saronic gulf : it leaps, it mounts
 The summit of Arachne, whose highhead
 Looks down on Argos : to this royal seat

Thence darts the light, that from th' Idan fire
 Derives its birth. Rightly in order thus
 Each to the next consigns the torch, and fills
 The bright succession, whilst the first in speed
 Vies with the last : the promised signal this
 Given by my lord to announce the fall of Troy.

Æsch. *Agam.* l. 185.

PRIORY OF ST. THOMAS.

The priory of St. Thomas, the Martyr, (the famous Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury) was founded by Richard Péché,(1) who was chosen Bishop of Coventry in 1162. In 1181, he was appointed one of the justices in Ireland ; and in the same year founded this priory, only ten years after the assassination of Becket.(2) In 1182, Bishop Péché put on the habit of a canon regular of St. Austin, in this priory ; and dying the year following, was buried in the church which he had erected, and in the habit of the religious order which he had embraced.

At the same time, Gerard de Stafford, the son of Brian, ceded to this priory, all the land which he held of the bishop, beyond the water of Berkeswich ; to wit, from Kynesbrook, (3) as far as

(1) "Vocabulo Gallico, quod *Peccatum* sonat ;" says Godwin, "De Præsilibus Angliæ ;" p. 312.

(2) *Anglia Sacra*, vol. 2. p. 435. Shaw's Hist. of Staff. art. Litchfield. Dugd. Monast. vol. 2. p. 316.

(3) Malé in Dugdale, Akynesford.—See Cartulary in the Appendix, No. II. Kynesbrook is now Kinson-brook : Wythedenslade is no doubt the woody and watery dell, which bounds St. Thomas property on the Tixall side : *wythe*, a willow, *den*, a hollow or bottom, *slade* " *sylva cœdua*," a coppice ; in modern language, Willowdell Copse.

IVij the denslade in length ; and in breadth, from the Tixall way to the Sow water : and as much of the water as is contiguous to that land. In 1194, 5, Rich. I. the canons of St. Thomas purchased the lordship of Drayton, near Penkridge, a part of the barony of Stafford, of Hervey Bagot ; which he was constrained to sell upon his marriage with Milisent, the heiress of Stafford, in order to raise the fine of 500 marks, to be paid by him to the king for livery of the said barony. About the year 1265, 47 Hen. III. the unfortunate Robert de Ferrers, last Earl of Derby, granted two messuages, and seventeen acres of land in Chartley, and the advowson of the church of Stow, to the priory of St. Thomas, for the health of his soul, and of the souls of Mary and Alianora, his wives, and of all his ancestors, and posterity : together with his body, after his decease, that it might be there interred. (1)

In Pope Nicholas's taxation, for Staffordshire, in 1291, 19 Edw. I. the priory of St. Thomas is said to possess lands in Stow, worth 15 marks per an. : do. in Caverswall, 9*½*; at Moore, 4 marks ; lands in Drayton, near Penkridge, worth 6*1s.* ; at Fradswell, 5*s.* ; at Colton, 11*s.* 5*d.* ; at Mere, in the deanery of Newcastle, 6*8s.* 4*d.* ; at Stradicote, 10*s.* ; Pendeford, do. ; Leigh, 5*s.* ; Orbeston, (now Worston) Cote, Epton, (now Hopton) Whitgreave, etc. 4*8s.* ; and a mill, and other rents worth 7*4s.* The mark being 15*s.* 4*d.*, the whole annual value amounts to 5*7l.* 5*s.* 7*d.* at that time.

I find no further mention of St. Thomas Priory, till the reign

(1) It is probable that this Gerard de Stafford was some opulent inhabitant of the town of Stafford, and was so called from the place of his residence ; but not of the great family of the Barons de Stafford ; as the names of Gerard, and Brian, occur no where in their genealogy.—Erdesw. Staff.—See also the original Charters in the Appendix, No. II.

of Hen. VIII. when in the account taken of religious houses, its annual income was estimated at 141*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*⁽¹⁾ From the great difference in the value of money at this day, it is difficult to calculate exactly the revenues of this priory; but some judgment may be formed by comparison with similar establishments: out of fourteen religious houses in Staffordshire, mentioned by Dugdale, there are only two, whose income exceeded that of St. Thomas; the abbey of Burton, estimated at 267*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* and that of De la Cress, at 227*l.* 5*s.*

Walter Chetwynd, of Ingeshire, having enumerated the extensive possessions of this priory, (in his manuscript folio quoted above) adds as follows:

" Having thus amply enlarged y^e Possessions given by their founders, and procured several Bulls from y^e See of Rome, for the perpetuall appropriating them to their Priory, with y^e sentence of Excommunication against the violaters thereof, they likewise obtained divers franchises and exemptions from y^e Civil Power; and had also a grant of Free-warren, 12 E. 1. in all their demean land. But neyther y^e Papal Anathemas, nor their Royal Charters could protect them against that Statute made in y^e Parl^t att Leicester, 27 H. 8. by which, all the Relegious Houses, whose revenues exceeded not 200*l.* per an. were given to y^e king, whereupon there fell to the crown no fewer than 576: in which number this was included, being the preceding year, valued (according to those easy rates set on them by y^e Commissioners) but att 141*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.*"

Upon the final dissolution of religious houses in England, the priory of St. Thomas was held by the crown for some years; till the king granted it with all its manors, lands, and appurte-

(1) Dugd. Bar. vol. 1. p. 265. Monast. p. 317.

nances, to Rowland Lee : who had been chancellor of the diocese of Lichfield, and in 1554, was consecrated bishop of that see ; and was besides Archdeacon of Cornwall, professor of civil and canon law in the university of Cambridge, and commissary-general to Cardinal Wolsey, in his visitation of the whole church of England, in 1529. (1) Rowland Lee was indebted for his promotion to the bishopric, to the services which he had done to Henry VIII. ; and particularly for having performed the ceremony of his marriage with Anne Boleyne, though Queen Catherine was still alive, and the pope would not grant a divorce. This marriage took place in the chapel of Sopewell nunnery, near St. Albans ; which was granted eight years after to Sir Richard Lee, who was probably nearly related to the bishop. (2) Rowland Lee was a very remarkable man, and possessed of great abilities. He was made governor of the Marches in Wales ; an office which he retained till his death, and his name is still held in veneration by the Welsh, for the services he did their country. Having cleared the Marches of all the robbers who infested them, and di-

(1) Harwood's Descrip. of Lichfield. Shaw's Staff. vol. 1. p. 273.

(2) Anne Lee, eldest daughter of Sir Richard, was the heiress of this property, and married Edward Sadler, second son of Sir Ralph Sadler : from them are descended the Earl of Charleville, and the Lords Ashton and Darnall, in the kingdom of Ireland. (See Appendix to "Sir R. Sadler's State Papers" vol. 2. p. 381.)

I must not omit that Dame Iulyan, or Lady Juliana Berners, was prioress of Sopewell Nunnery. She is called by Bale, *illustris femina*, and is thought to have been sister to Richard, Lord Berners, the translator of Froissart. She appears to have been the first poetess in England. Her "Boke of Huntyng," along with a Book of Hawking, and other *plesuris diverse*, was printed at St. Albans, in 1486, fol. and by Wynkyn de Worde, in 1496, and was reprinted in black letter in 1814.

vided the principality into counties, he caused it to be united with England ; and procured an act of parliament that Wales should be governed by the same laws, and partake of the same rights and privileges : than which nothing could have happened more fortunate for the good of the people. He was afterwards accused of treason, by some who envied his worth and greatness, but was honourably acquitted by the king's council. Bishop Lee lived till the year 1545, when he died at Shrewsbury, at the house of his brother George Lee, Dean of St. Chad's ; and was buried in the collegiate church, before the high altar, under a tomb of black marble. By virtue of a settlement of his property made in 51 Hen. VIII., the lands of St. Thomas Priory were divided after his death, among the five sons of Isabella, his sister, by her husband Roger Fowler.

The name of Fowler is of great antiquity, in England, belonging to a family of some note and distinction, prior to the reign of King Richard I. Richard Fowler, of Foxley, in Buckinghamshire, accompanied that valiant prince in his expedition into Palestine, in 1190 ; and maintained at his own expense, a certain number of English bowmen, all his own tenants, to serve in the holy wars. (1) At the siege of Acre, or Ptolemais, by his extraordinary care and vigilance, he baffled an attempt of the Infidels to surprise the Christian camp in the night. In reward of these eminent services, his royal master knighted him in the field : and caused his crest, which was the *hand and lure*, to be changed to the *vigilant owl*. From him, Roger Fowler, above-mentioned, was descended ; and his great grandson, Walter Fowler, married in 1629, Constantia, youngest daughter of Walter, first Lord Aston, of Tixall. (2) By her, he had three sons, William, Thomas, and

(1) Wotton's Baronet, vol. 5. p. 102.

(2) King Charles II. at his restoration, intended to institute an order

Walter; and two daughters, Mary, and Dorothy. He survived his lady, and dying in 1681, was succeeded by his son Walter Fowler, who married Maria, daughter of Walter Heveningham, Esq. of Aston, near Stone. Of his daughters, Mary married John Betham, Esq. by whom she had an only daughter, Catherine Betham ; and Dorothy married Thomas Grove, Esq. by whom she had an only son called Thomas. Their brother William Fowler had no issue; and in 1712, he made a will, by which he settled an annuity of 500*l.* on his sister Dorothy, for her life ; and after her death, an annuity of 200*l.* on her son Thomas Grove. But at the same time he settled his whole landed estate, subject however to these annuities, on his niece Catherine Betham, only daughter of his eldest sister Mary ; on condition, that she and her husband, if she married, should bear the name of Fowler. In 1715, he privately, and to all appearance most unaccountably executed a new will ; by which he revoked the settlement of 1712 ; and thus left the succession to his property undecided. The year following William Fowler died, leaving his new will, perfectly unknown to his friends, in the hands of Christopher Ward, an attorney, of Stafford, whom he had employed to draw it up. Whether through ignorance, or design, Ward, the attorney, made no mention of the will of 1715, lodged in his hands, but observed a strict silence respecting it till his death,

of knighthood, as a reward to those who had adhered faithfully to him in his distresses. They were to be called " Knights of the Royal Oak," and were to bear a silver medal, with the device of the king in the oak, pendant to a ribbon about their necks. But it was thought proper to lay it aside, lest it might open those wounds afresh, which at that time it was thought most prudent to heal. Among the names of the intended knights, with the yearly value of their estates, the sixth is Walter Fowler, Esq. 1,500*l.* (Wotton's Baronet, vol. 10. p. 375. Shaw's Hist. of Staff. vol 1.)

which hapened in 1724. In 1726, Thomas, Lord Viscount Fauconberg, married Catherine Fowler, alias Betham ; styled himself Fowler Fauconberg, in compliance with the will of his wife's uncle, and came into possession of all the Fowler estates, which at that time yielded a yearly income of more than 2,000*l.*, and were considered as very improveable. At this time, Thomas Grove, the son of Dorothy Fowler, Lady Fauconberg's aunt, was established in Worcester, where, having fallen into distress, he followed some business, which hardly afforded him a livelihood ; on which account, Lord Fauconberg generously took upon himself the expence of the education of his only child, Rebecca Grove, and sent her to a convent in France, for that purpose. But a strange reverse of fortune was shortly to take place ! In 1727, Edward Ward, son of Christopher Ward, the attorney, looking over his father's papers, discovered the will of 1715, and communicated it to Lord Aston, of Tixall, who was the principal trustee for the Fowler estates. About this time, Thomas Grove died, and his only daughter Rebecca, married Mr. Fitzgerald, an Irish barrister. The common tradition is, that Lord Aston laid the will in question before Mr. Fitzgerald for his opinion, who immediately perceived that Rebecca Grove, as representative of her grandmother Dorothy, sister and coheiress of Walter Fowler, was clearly entitled to one half of the Fowler property, the former settlement on Catherine Betham, in 1712, having become null and void, by the subsequent will in 1715 : and that, in consequence he paid his addresses to her, and obtained her hand. After a long suit in chancery, and an appeal to the house of lords, it was finally determined in 1733, that Lord Fauconberg should surrender one half of the estate ; but should not be liable to refund any part of the income he had received from it. Upon this, his lordship dropt the name of Fowler, and losing all relish for what remained to him of the property, he soon after sold the priory of St. Thomas to Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. Her

garee dying in 1744, left it by will to her grandson, the Hon. John Spencer, fourth son of Charles, Earl of Sunderland, by Lady Anne Churchill, daughter and coheiress of the great Duke of Marlborough. His son, created Earl Spencer, in 1765, sold the estate of St. Thomas to the father of the present Lord Talbot. The other moiety has remained with the descendants of Mr. Fitzgerald. (1)

The priory of St. Thomas, is situated in a sweet sequestered valley, watered by the river Sow, under a woody height, which shelters it from the north and east. Above this wood was a tract of ground, surrounded by a paling, called St. Thomas Park, which was bounded on the north and east by Tixall parish. (2)

(1) Tixall Evid.

The family of Fowler was Roman Catholic; and Walter Fowler, the husband of Constantia Aston, had for his tutor at St. Thomas, Mr. John Austin, "a gentleman," says Wood, "of singular parts and accomplishments, and a great master of the English tongue. He published several religious works; the best known is one in two vols. entitled "*Devotions in the old Way.*" Ath. Ox.

Here also resided as chaplain, the Rev. Simon Berrington, author of that singular performance "The Adventures of Gaudentio di Lucca:" in which a new Utopia is described in elegant language, and with great fertility of imagination. It has been falsely ascribed to the celebrated Bishop Berkeley.

(2) Among the extracts from a curious MS. journal of the parliamentary committee at Stafford, in 1643, published by the Rev. S. Shaw, in his Hist. of Staff. vol. 1. p. 69, is the following:

"Jan. 21.—Ordered, that Mr. Henry Goringe shall have power and authority from time to time, so often as necessarie, to fell any timber trees in St. Thomas's Park, or within the Lady Stafford's grounds, for the edifying or repairing of any works belonging to this garrison of Stafford."

Soon after the property of the Fowlers had passed to the Spencers, the old mansion was let to a company of cotton printers, who in a few years found it expedient to abandon the undertaking. A great part of the priory was then demolished, and the remainder was altered and fitted up for the residence of a farmer. On this occasion, the venerable ancient fixtures were sold by auction; and some aged persons still commemorate the massive marble chimney-pieces, from each of which, the purchaser was enabled to make two or three in the modern taste. A flower garden now occupies the site of the great hall; and a balustrade, with a flight of steps leading from the house to the bank of the river, is still decorated with two large antique vases, or flower-pots of very rude sculpture. Some of the buildings appear from their style of architecture, to be part of the original structure of the age of Henry II., but no traces can now be found of the church or cloisters, whose “fretted vaults” once resounded with the “pealing anthems of the religious;” and in whose “long-drawn aisles” the trophied tombs of heroes, statesmen, and bishops, still served to perpetuate the memory of their talents and virtues. But the monuments of man are frail and perishable as himself.

Miramur periisse homines? monumenta fatiscunt!
Interitus saxis nominibus venit.

Not man alone—his works decay,
His towers and temples—pass away.

THE RIVER SOW.

The river Sow, after leaving the priory of St. Thomas, becomes the immediate boundary of Tixall parish, for more than three miles, till it loses its name in the Trent at Shugborough. It rises in the parish of Madeley, and at Whitmore, where the respectable family of the Mainwarings has resided for more than two centuries, it is expanded into a fine piece of water. It next enters the extensive parish and manor of Swinnerton, and first meets with Swinnerton Park, a wild woodland tract of more than 800 acres. (1) Beyond this, on a commanding eminence, stands the mansion of the family of Fitzherbert, a handsome stone edifice, erected about sixty years ago. It enjoys a very rich and extensive prospect of the north-west parts of the county of Stafford, backed by Shropshire and Cheshire. In the horizon, the lofty Wrekin rears his majestic cone far above the surrounding objects ; and beyond, on a clear day, may be descried a long range of mountains in Shropshire and North Wales : of which the most remarkable is the forked Cordoc, where Caractacus or Caradoc, is said to have made the last stand against the Romans. (2)

(1) In this Heath, or Park is found the black game, the *tetrao-tetrix* of Linnaeus, and also on Cannock Chase.

(2) The family of Fitzherbert is of ancient and noble descent, and has produced some eminent men. Their founder and progenitor is said to have been *Heribert*, first Earl of Vermandois, about the year 900. His son *Heribert* married Ogine, Queen of France, widow of King Charles the Simple. Their son Heribert, had two sons, Heribert and Herbert.

The Sow is a *gremial* river, having its origin and termination within the same county ; and is about twenty-five miles in length

This Heribert was the fourth and last Earl of Vermandois ; and his daughter and sole heiress married Hugh, son of Hen. I. of France.

Herbert, son of Herbert above-mentioned, was father of Henry Fitzherbert, chamberlain to Hen. I. of England ; who married Alix, natural daughter of that king, by Anna Corbet. (Ex stemm. Fam. de Fitzherbert, penes Thom. Fitzherbert, de Swinnerton, arm.)

Sir Wm. Fitzherbert, son of Henry, obtained from Wm. Ferrars, prior of the convent of Tutbury, in 1125, a grant of the manor of Norbury, near Ashbourne in Derbyshire, to him and his heirs for ever : and here they resided for about 450 years, till the marriage of Wm. Fitzherbert, with Isabel, daughter and coheiress of Humphrey Swinnerton, of Swinnerton, about the middle of the sixteenth century ; since which time that place has been the principal seat of this branch of the family. (Erdesw. Staff.)

Of this family was Sir Anthony Fitzherbert, Knt. the famous judge, author of “*Natura Breuium Novel*” in French, 1534 ; a work highly esteemed, and often reprinted : and also of the “*Book of Husbandry*”, first printed in 1534, and many times afterwards in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, but now very scarce. There is a copy in the library at Swinnerton. This work obtained for its author the honourable title of *The Father of English Husbandry* : and was the result of 40 years experience in agricultural pursuits. “We had little or nothing that resembled a systematical body of agriculture but Fitzherbert’s two books, for the space of 100 years.” (Hartes’s *Essays on Husbandry*.)

Sir Anthony also published some other useful books on Law. “These his writings,” says Fuller, “are monuments which will longer continue his memory, than the flat blue marble stone in Norbury church, under which he lies interred.” (“Worthies,” Derb.) Sir Anthony Fitzherbert died in 1538. The mansion of Norbury is now a farm-

from its source to its mouth. For the first twenty miles, its course is almost due-south, after which it inclines a good deal to the

house, but the study of this laborious and useful man is still preserved. It is neatly wainscotted with oak, and on all the pannels are inscribed in old English characters, select sentences out of scripture, chiefly from "The Book of Wisdom."

Alice Fitzherbert, sister of Sir Anthony, was the last abbess of Polesworth, which she with great reluctance surrendered to the king's commissioners, in 1539. (Dug. "Hist. of Warw." art. Polesworth.) Of Nicholas and Thomas Fitzherbert, grandsons of Sir Anthony, and authors of some literary productions, the reader will find an account in Wood's *Athenæ*, in the "Biogr. Brit." and in the "Gen. Biogr. Dictionary."

From a son of the last-mentioned Thomas Fitzherbert, the line has been continued down to the present time.

The sixth in descent from him, was the late Thomas Fitzherbert, Esq. who in 1778, married the widow of Edward Weld, Esq. of Lulworth-castle. This lady, so well known, and so highly respected in the fashionable world, is the daughter of Walter Smythe, Esq. of Brambridge, in Hampshire; brother of Sir Edward Smythe, Bart. of Acton-Burnall, in Shropshire. Her first husband left her a young widow, without any family: by her second, she had an only son, who lived but a few months. Mr. Fitzherbert was an astonishing pedestrian, and being inclined to corpulency, he endeavoured to counteract that tendency, by the most extraordinary bodily exertions, by which he was supposed greatly to have impaired his constitution. During the riots in London, in 1780, his curiosity led him on one occasion to mingle with the mob; and at the close of the day, being much fatigued and overheated, he had the imprudence to throw himself into a cold bath, the consequence of which proved fatal. Symptoms of a consumption and of a rapid decline appearing soon after, he went with his lady to the south of France, and died at Nice, in 1781. Since that event, his widow, Mrs. Fitzherbert, has chiefly resided in En-

east, and passing between Creswell-hall, (1) the seat of the Rev. T. Whitby, and Seighford, the residence of the family of Eld, almost encircles the borough of Stafford. (2) Soon after leaving

gland. Her long, and intimate, and mysterious connexion with an illustrious personage, has rendered her the topic of general conversation, more than perhaps any other female of her time; but by her friends and relations, and by all those who have ever enjoyed the honour of her acquaintance, she has always been regarded with the most unqualified sentiments of approbation and esteem. By the untimely death of her husband, without issue, the Swinnerton estates devolved to his brother Basil, whose son Thomas Fitzherbert, Esq. is the present possessor.

The Fitzherberts of Tissington, in Derbyshire, are descended from a second son of John Fitzherbert, lord of Norbury, in the reign of Hen. III. This branch of the family has been raised to the dignity of the peerage, in the person of Alleyne Fitzherbert, Lord St. Helens.

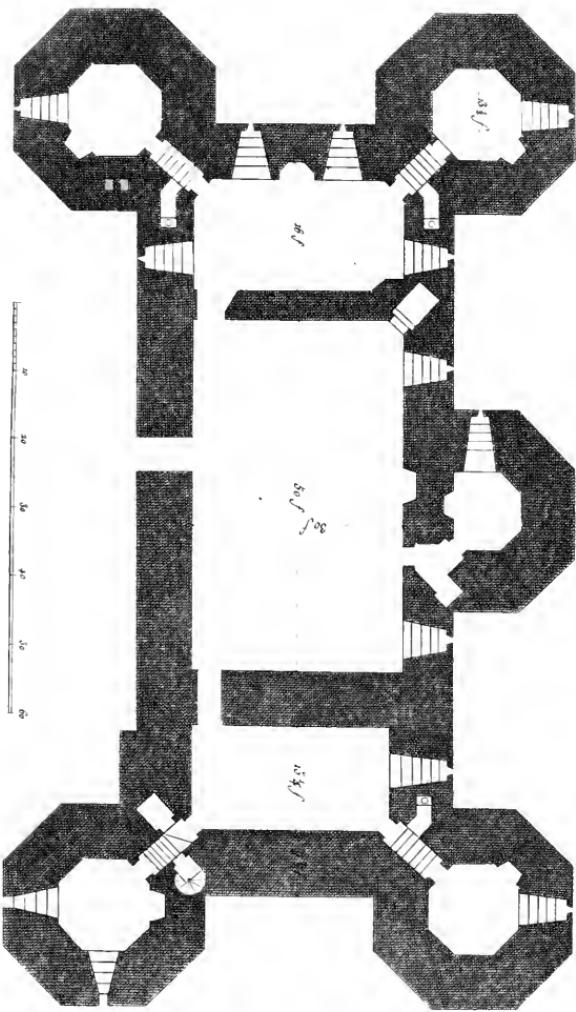
(1) Creswell, *Crassa Vallis*; so called from the richness and luxuriance of its pastures.

(2) Stafford, anciently called Stadford, or Statford, which means *town-ford*, (from *Stadt*. a town, *Sax.*) is a place of great antiquity, and in Domesday-book, is styled a city. Lye, in his "Saxon Dictionary" says, that Stafford means *Stavi Trajectus*, supposing the river Sow to have been originally called *Stavus* or *Staff*; and for this etymolgy he quotes Baxter, "Gloss. Antiq. Brit." p. 75, 231. Dr. Plot's derivation is more fanciful. *Stafford*, a *ford* says he, which people could walk through with the help of a *staff*. Its first name is said to have been *Berteliney*, or *Betheney*; which is interpreted *the Island of Berthelin*. This Berthelin was a holy hermit, who had fixed upon this spot for his residence; but the fame of his sanctity attracting numbers to the place, he forsook it, and concealed himself in the neighbouring wood, where he ended his days in penitential austerities. (Ang. Sacr. vol. 1.) The earliest authentic account of Stafford, is of the year 913, when Elfleda, sister of Edward the Elder, and

Stafford, the Sow receives the waters of the Penk, another gremial river, whoes whole course is not above fourteen miles.

Countess of Mercia, built a castle there; but the scite of it is not now known. (Saxon. Chron. 104). Another was founded by William the Conqueror, on an insulated hill near the town, and was given in custody to Robert de Toeni, who assumed the name of *de Stadford*, and was the progenitor of the illustrious family of Stafford.—(See note E.)—This castle was garrisoned by King Charles I. but was taken by the parliamentary forces, and demolished in 1644. Dr. Plot tells us, that during the civil wars Charles I. and Prince Rupert came to Stafford, and that being in Captain Richard Sneyd's garden, at the high house there, near the collegiate church of St. Mary, the prince, at about 60 yards distance, made a shot at the weathercock upon the steeple, with a screwed horseman's pistol, and single bullet; which pierced its tail, the hole plainly appearing to all that were below: which the king then judging as a casualty only, the prince presently proved the contrary by a second shot to the same effect: the two holes through the weathercock's tail (as an ample testimony of the thing) remaining there to this day." (Hist. of Staff. ch. 9.) This steeple, said to be one of the highest in England, was afterwards blown down. About thirty years ago, nothing of the castle remained visible, but a solitary fragment of a wall, which the late Sir Wm. Jerningham under-built, to prevent it from falling. Some workmen being employed to search for an ancient wall, discovered that all the basement story of the castle lay buried under the ruins of the upper parts. Sir Wm. Jerningham immediately ordered the whole to be excavated, and cleared off the rubbish; so that the curious traveller may now explore every part of it, and contemplate at his leisure the form and extent of a fortress, or baronial castle, in the time of the conqueror. Sir George Jerningham, son of Sir William, has undertaken to rebuild the castle on the old foundation, and has already compleated one front, flanked by two round towers, in a very elegant castellated style.

GROUND PLAN OF STAFFORD CASTLE.



Drayton, in his Polyolbion, has celebrated their junction in the following lines :

- - - - - As Sow, which from her spring,
At Stafford meeteth Penk, which she along doth bring
To Trent by Tixall graced, the Astons' ancient seat ;
Which oft the Muse hath found a safe and sweet retreat.

Enlarged by the stream of the Penk, the Sow proceeds in a smooth and tranquil course through the retired vale of St. Thomas ; and having passed under the Stafford and Worcester Canal, through the arches of an aqueduct at Milford, it flows under Tixall Bridge, dividing the parish from Cannock Heath. It then enters the beautiful demesne of Shugborough, whose groves and temples it reflects in its glassy stream through the remainder of its course.

CANNOCK HEATH.

Cannock, pronounced Cank, probably takes its name from two Saxon words, *cann* to be able, mighty, powerful ; and *ac*, *æc*, or *oc*, an oak, from the vast number of oaks with which it was formerly covered. (1) A *power* of any thing meaning a great quantity, is an expression still in use ; and this extensive waste is often called Cank *wood* at this day, though that appellation is gradually giving way to the more appropriate denomination of Cank Heath.

Being situated nearly in the centre of England, it is plausibly conjectured by Dr. Wilkes, to have been a principal seat of the Druids : and this idea is considerably strengthened from the

(1) So *Canwell*, also in this county, means a *powerful spring*. Dr. Plot, who appears to have been a superficial etymologist, derives Cannock from King Canute, the Dane.

circumstance that the names of several places in its vicinity have the word *col* prefixed to them : as Colfield, Colton, Coley, Colwich ; which word in the Celtic and British language, signifies holy.

At what period the devastation of its verdant shades took place, is not clearly ascertained. Drayton bewails the loss in the 12th song of *Polyolbion* ; where he also seems to allude, in his allegorical manner, to the notion of its having been a seat of the Druids. In the year 1675, an elegant Latin poem, entitled “ *Iter Boreale* ” was published by Mr. Masters, in which the general appearance of Cannock Heath is very accurately described in the following classical and picturesque lines :

Hinc mihi mox ingens *Ericetum* complet ocellos,
 Sylva olim, passim Nymphis habitata ferisque ;
 Condense quercus, domibus res nata struendis,
 Ornandoque foco, et validæ spes unica classis.
 Nunc umbris immissa dies ; namque æquore vasto,
 Ante, retro, dextrâ, laevâ, quo lumen cumque
 Verteris, una humili consurgit vertice planta,
 Purpureoque *Erice* tellurem vestit amictu.
 Dum floret, suaves et naribus afflat odores,
 Hæc ferimus saltem amissæ solatia sylvæ.

Pennant, in his “ *Journey from Chester to London.* ” has inserted a translation of these verses by the Rev. Richard Williams, of Vron, in Flinstshire, which are not at all inferior to the original :

A vast and naked plain confines the view,
 Where trees unnumbered in past ages grew ;
 The green retreat of wood-nymphs, once the boast,
 The pride, the guardians of their native coast.
 Alas ! how changed ! each venerable oak
 Long since has yielded to the woodman’s stroke.
 Where’er the cheerless prospect meets the eye,
 No shrub, no plant, except the heath is nigh ;

The solitary heath alone is there,
And wafts its sweetness on the desert air.
So sweet its scent, so rich its purple hue,
We half forgot that here a forest grew.

Cannock Heath is now almost destitute of wood, except in those skirts of it, which lie contiguous to Tixall, and Shugborough, where some romantic forest scenery, and sylvan glades are still to be met with. It may therefore be described, in its present state, as a large heathy waste, containing about 25,000 acres. It abounds in coal, and has some beds of limestone. The herbage, which is very short, affords but scanty subsistence to about 5,000 deer, which run wild, and to numberless sheep; all the freeholders having an unlimited right of common. In one part there is an extensive rabbit-warren. As the sheep often return home diseased, and infect the flock which was left behind; and as the deer are compelled to invade the inclosures and gardens which border on the chase, for a subsistence; we may fairly presume that this common is rather an injury than a benefit to the neighbouring freeholders. How disgraceful therefore is it, that, in this enlightened age of cultivation and improvement, and when the interests of agriculture are the object of general attention from the monarch to the peasant—how disgraceful, that such a tract of country should be suffered to remain, and in the very heart of this populous and manufacturing county, not only unproductive, but a burden on the community!

From Dugdale's valuable History of Warwickshire, (art. Chertton) and from evidences at Tixall, I am enabled to give the following account of the rangers, or keepers of this ancient forest or chase, from the time of the Conquest.

Soon after that memorable event, *Richard Chinew*, styled by reason of his office, *venator et forestarius*, had a third part of Chertton, and other lands, given to him by the Conqueror, in ser-

jeanty, viz. : by the service of *keeping the forest of Cannock*, and paying ten marks yearly to the king, for the bailywick thereof, and for the said lands he so held. This Richard Chinew had one daughter, married to *Walter Crok*, who gave three marks of gold to King Stephen, *pro rehabendo ministerio suo*; that is, to recover his office of forrester in Cannock Chase.

To Walter Crok, succeeded William, his son and heir, who gave all his lands at Wirley, in Staffordshire, to the monks of Radmore, in the said forest; which was a Cistercian abbey, lately founded there by Ralph, Earl of Chester. Notwithstanding this act of piety, William Crok was afterwards hanged for felony, and his estates and office were forfeited to the king, who however gave his sister in marriage to *Robert de Broc*, and with her the forfeited property of her brother. This Robert de Broc was a man of note, and is styled *Marescallus Anglie, et Forestarius de Cannock*. He died 5 Rich. I., leaving an only daughter married to *Hugh de Loges*; who, in consideration of his having paid sixty marks towards the ransom of King Richard, had the lands of Robert de Broc, his father in law, and the custody of the forest of Cannock surrendered to him. (1)

King John occasionally resided in or near this forest, probably for the purpose of enjoying the pleasures of the chase: and Hugh de Loges held five tenements near Coventry, of the Earl of Chester, by the service of conducting the said earl towards the king's court, through the midst of the forest; meeting him at Radford-

(1) There appears to have been a castle in early times upon Cannock Forest, where the first kings of the Norman race occasionally resided. This castle still existed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. See a curious ancient record of the offices under that queen, in Peck's "Desiderata Curiosa," vol. 1. p. 70, one of which is *The Constable of Cannock Castle, in Staffordshire*.

bridge, near Stafford, on notice of his coming, and at Hopwas-bridge, near Tamworth, on his return ; for which service, he was moreover entitled to receive from the earl, each time he should so attend him, a barbed arrow ; and the earl might, if he pleased, kill a deer in going, and another on returning back. Hugh de Loges was in arms against King John, during the turbulent times towards the end of his reign : for which offence, the forestership of Cannock was seized into the king's hands : but by a precept dated 17 John, it was appointed, that in case he found good pledges for the sure custody of that forest, it should be restored. After his death, Hugh his son and heir held the office in serjeanty, as his ancestors had done, and received a command from King Henry III., to permit William Fitzwalkelin, to enter his hart-hounds for hunting the stag, in his bailywick ; whence it would appear, that at that time, red deer inhabited this forest. This Hugh de Loges was the last of his family who held the stewardship and bailiwick of Cannock Chase, which King Henry disposed of to *Sir Thomas Weseham, Knt.* and his heirs ; and they, it is said, passed away the inheritance 12 Edw. I to Philip de Montomeri, the king confirming the grant.

There seems however great reason to doubt whether this transfer took place ; for which Dugdale only gives the authority of a private autograph, *penes Wm. de Cumberford.* On the contrary, it is highly probable that this office devolved from Sir Thomas de Weseham, either by will or inheritance, to Roger de Weseham, Bishop of Lichfield, and was by him annexed to that see. Possibly, Philip de Montomeri may have been appointed deputy keeper, *pro tempore*, which would equally require the confirmation of the king. Certain it is, that about that time, Cannock Forest became an appendage of the bishopric of Lichfield ; and that *Roger de Molend*, who succeeded to that see on the resignation of Weseham, in 1257, granted to *Roger de Aston*, of

Haywood, and his heirs for ever, the title and office of hereditary master and ruler of the game of Cankwood, with a right to the umbles of all the deer killed thereon, and a certain number of loads of wood every year, for fuel and repairs. (1)

In 11 Hen. 7. the Bishop of Lichfield disputing Sir John Aston's title of hereditary master and ruler of the game of Cannock Wood, the principal gentlemen of Staffordshire signed the following certificate, which by reason of its antiquity, and the eminence of the persons certifying, it may not be improper to insert:—

“ To all Christen people to whom this present writing shall come:—Wee Edwarde Lord Dudley, John, Abbot of Crokesden, George, Abbot of Roucester, Thomas, Prior of Trentham, Roger, Prior of Ronton, William Littleton, Knt. Hugh Egerton, Sqyer, Humfrey Pershall, Sqyer, William Dethick, Sqyer, John Harcourt, Sqyer, John Mitton, sheriff of the county of Stafford, Sqyer, Richard Wrottesley, Sqyer, William Astley, Sqyer, John Egerton, rider of the Cankewood, Sqyer, Raulf Wolseley, Sqyer, John Draycote, Sqyer, Hugh Erdeswicke, Sqyer, Lewes Paget, Sqyer, Thomas Harcourt, Sqyer, Humfrey Okeover, Sqyer, John Swynerton of Iswale, Sqyer, Robert Wodde of Keel, Gent. John Draycote, bailif of Haywood, Gent. John Asheby of Stafford, Gent. Robert Dorington of Coton, Gent. Rauf Downe, Gent. Thomas Rowdon, and Roger Buttere, late bailiffs of the town of Stafford, Thomas Bolwick, Gent. deputy to John Aston, Richard Dutton, oon of the keepers of Cankewodde, John Ellesmere, another of the keepers of Cankewood, John Snowe, late a keeper of the Cankewodde, Reynold Weston, oon of the keepers of the Cankewode, William Wolseley of the Canke, late a keeper of

(1) Tixall Evid.

Cankewoode, William Whitby, late oon of the keepers of the Cankewoode, John Weston of Tixsall, oon of the keepers of the same Wodde: William Holt of Bersden, yeoman, send gretynge in our lord everlasting. And forasmuch as we be informed that divers debats and variance resten between the Right Reverent Fader in God, late Bishop of Chester, and John Aston of Heywode, in the county of Stafford, Sqyer, of, for and upon the right, title and possession of the office of the mastership of the game and rule of the Cankewodde: That is to say, whether oon John Aston, late deceased, fader to the seid John Aston that now is on life, should have and be seized in his lif, and at tyme of his deth, the kaping, rule and governaunce of the said Canke-wodde and game or no. And bycause it is necessarie, requisite duty, meritorious to every man, to sey and shewe the truth of every thyng that he is required unto, as far forth as they knowe: We therefore certifie and shewe of very troth, that we knowe well that the seid John Aston late deceased, fader to the seid John Aston, now oon life, was sezied of the seid office, rule and game. And that the seid John his son entred into the same after his deth, and hath had the possession thereof, and yet hath; and we know also, by the continual making of officers under hym, and ruyling the game the while he lised, and also by taking of the fees of venyson, and so has continued; and by diverse obligations to hym made by suche persons as had offended within the office, duiyrng his tyme, for their abeyreing.—And all these premisses be as well knownen by the substance of all the countrey, as by us; and it openly shewed, and ever hath ben ther, that the said John, late diseased, had the same office granted to his ancestors, and to their heirs for ever in fee, by the predecessors of the said bishop and chapter then beying, and so have contened it sithen till now.—All the which premisses, as fer forth as it is aforesaid, and as we know, we be and will be redy to shewe and sey, when shall be requyred to the same. In witness whereof to this pre-

sent our seying and writeing, have sette our seals the eight day
of Jung, the 11th yer of King Henry the 7th."

Underneath were set the hands and seals of several persons be-
fore recited.

After the Reformation, William, Lord Paget, obtained a grant
of Cannock Wood, Beaudesert Park, and other property of the
bishoprick ; but the rights of the Aston family remained un-
touched and undisputed. On the attainder of Thomas, Lord
Paget, and the forfeiture of all his property to the crown, it
was thought proper to draw up the following " Certificate,
touching the Mastership of the Game of Cankewood, 6. Oct^r.
36. Eliz. A.D. 1594.

" To all Christian people to whom this Present shall come to
be seen, read, or heard, whose names are herein contained, and
subscribed with our hands and seals, greeting in our Lord God
everlasting. Whereas it is a thing very fit and convenient for all
men to witness the truth in such cases, whereof either for the pre-
sent, or in time to come, there may arise any question or doubt;
for that we understand that the inheritance of Cankewood and
Bewdesert Park, with many other things, are come to the hands
of our most gracious sovereign lady, Queen Elizabeth, upon the
attainder of Thomas, Lord Paget : And therefore in that her ma-
jesty's officers should be truly informed what interest any man
hath, or continually hath used or enjoyed therein : We do tes-
tify thus much upon our knowledge, and upon a true and certain
information, that Sir Edward Aston, Knt. now presently living,
Sir Walter Aston, Knt. his father, and Sir Edward Aston, Knt.
his grandfather, and all his ancestors since the 19th year of King
Edward the First, have exercised, used, and enjoyed the office
of master of the game, in the Cankewood and Bewdesert Park, as
in punishing such as do offend, in taking bonds of such as hunt
unlawfully there for their good behaviour to the game, in appoint-
ing a keeper to walk, and have care of the game ; in serving

many warrants, in taking as his fee deer, one buck, and one doe yearly, in Bewdesert Park ; and also the umbles of all deer killed either in Cankewood, or Bewdesert Park ; by taking as his fee, all deer killed by casualty or mischance, and other things belonging to that office. All which is well known to all the country as well as to us. And that these things above written have been admitted and allowed without contradiction by William, Lord Paget, during his life, and by Thomas, Lord Paget, until five or six years before his departure out of England : at which time, upon some other controversies betwixt the said Thomas, Lord Paget, and Sir Walter Aston, he did not willingly allow of his office of master of game : yet notwithstanding that he did not allow thereof, yet Sir Walter Aston did use and enjoy his office until his death ; and Sir Edward Aston doth presently enjoy it even until this day. And thus much for the certifying a truth, we are ready to witness, that is to say, etc. etc."

[Here followed the names, being those of the principal gentlemen of the county at that time.]

Many subsequent litigations took place between the Pagets and the Astons, respecting this office ; when in the year 1712, a compromise was entered into between them, at the recommendation of the court of chancery : and Walter, fourth Lord Aston, agreed to waive all claim to the mastership of the game, and to accept in lieu thereof, four fee bucks, every year from the chase, to be delivered to him whole and entire at his mansion at Tixall, without fee or reward, by the keeper of Cankwood, unless he should prefer to take them by hunting ; in which case, the said keepers were required to attend him, and gave him their assistance. On this footing the matter has rested ever since.

An irregular piece of ground with a paling round it, called Haywood Park, lies between Cannock Heath and Shugborough. It incloses a romantic dale, with a limpid brook rambling through it, encircled by lofty woody banks, presenting a rich amphitheatre

of umbrageous oaks. The sight of it always tempts me to exclaim with Virgil—

Rura mihi et rigui placeant in vallibus amnes,
Flumina amem sylvasque inglorius. O ubi campi,
Sperchinsque, et virginibus bacchata Lacensis
Tay geta ! O quis me gelidis in vallibus Haemi
Sistat, et ingenti ramorum protegat umbrâ!

This spot, now the property of the Marquis of Anglesea, was formerly the red deer-park of the bishops of Lichfield.

About thirty years ago, a poor man, whom accident had rendered incapable of labour, built himself a hut of turf, covered with heath, on an elevated spot, which commands an extensive view of some of the wildest parts of Cannock Chase, and from which you look down on the sheltered sylvan scenery just described. He soon acquired the appellation of the hermit of Cannock Heath. His wants were small, and he subsisted entirely on the casual charity of visitors, whom curiosity attracted to his humble dwelling. Being of a contemplative and religious turn of mind, and unsuited by his infirmities for long or severe manual labour, he devoted much of his time to reading ; but his library consisted only of two books, the Bible, and Robinson Crusoe, whom he considered as his model. He contrived to tame a hare, and like the poet Cowper, who imagined the same amusement to soothe his hours of melancholy dejection, he made the timid creature so familiar, that in the wintry season, when his hut and the surrounding heath were buried under snow, she would sport upon his hearth, and play with him like a kitten. But poor puss was fated to meet with an untimely end ! Straying one day too far from home, she fell in with a pack of hounds, who pursued her with blood-thirsty swiftness, and killed her at the very door of the hermitage to which she fled for protection. The owner of the pack, (the late George Anson, Esq.) no sooner

heard of the sorrowful accident, than he ordered the mangled remains of the unfortunate animal to be delivered to the afflicted hermit, together with a present. The poor man buried his favourite with many tears in a corner of his garden, and erected a plain monument over her grave, with an epitaph in verse, composed by himself, of which these were the two concluding lines :

Each day she did around my humble cot attend,
She was my sole companion, and my silent friend.

By degrees the curiosity of the neighbourhood abated ; the anchorite was forgot, and at last obliged by want and increasing infirmities to seek a refuge in the work-house, where he soon ended his days. The simple tomb he had erected is now levelled with the dust which it covered ; the hut itself has disappeared ; and nothing remains to mark the place, but the birch and alder which he planted, and of which he had formed a fence to protect his little garden from the inroads of the deer. These trees are now grown up into a wild natural clump, and waving on the breezy summit, add a picturesque feature to the uninhabited and dreary waste.

SHUGBOROUGH.

The last boundary of Tixall parish which remains to be described, is the demesne of Shugborough, the magnificent seat of Lord Viscount Anson ; to the beauties of which, whether of nature or art, it is difficult to do justice by the most exact or most elaborate verbal description.

Here hills and vales, the woodland and the plain,
 Here earth and water seem to strive again :
 Not chaos-like, together crushed and bruised,
 But as the world, harmoniously confused.
 Where order in variety we see,
 And where though all things differ, all agree.
 Here, waving groves a checkered scene display,
 And part admit, and part exclude the day ;
 There, interspersed in lawns, and opening glades,
 Thin trees arise which shun each other's shades ;
 Here, in full light the russet plains extend,
 There, wrapt in clouds the bluish hills ascend.
 E'en the wild heath displays her purple dies ;
 And midst the desert fruitful fields arise,
 That crowned with tufted trees, and springing corn,
 Like verdant isles the sable waste adorn. (1)

Shugborough, anciently written *Sowborough*, and so called from its situation at the mouth of the river Sow, was one of the palaces of the bishops of Lichfield ; and was built by Walter de Langton, bishop of that diocese in the reign of Edward I. It was a part of the plunder of the bishoprick given by Edward VI.

(1) Pope's Windsor Forest.

to Lord Paget ; and the artificial ruins on the banks of the Sow, just opposite the back-front of the present mansion, are said to mark the site of the ancient palace.

The family of Anson, though very ancient and respectable in this county, was not settled at Shugborough, till the reign of James I. about the year 1620. At this time, William Anson, Esq. of Dunston, near Penkridge, having purchased the manor of Shugborough, made it his principal residence. He also bought two manors in Warwickshire, of Sir Walter Aston, Kt. Bart. which he afterwards disposed of to William Cumberford, Esq. of Tamworth. (1)

By the memorable achievements of the first Lord Anson, towards the middle of the last century, the name will be immortal in the naval annals of England. Lord Anson was the youngest son of William Anson, Esq. of Shugborough, and great grandson of William Anson, Esq. of Dunston, above-mentioned. As he discovered very early in life an ardent passion for naval glory, and seemed to take the greatest delight in hearing and reading the stories of our most distinguished navigators and admirals, his father gave him an education correspondent to his disposition and genius. He was soon appointed to a command in the navy, and behaved on every station in which he was employed, with the greatest intrepidity and valour. On his return from his perilous but successful expedition in the South Seas, he was successively promoted to the highest honours of his profession. In the year 1747, he intercepted a powerful French fleet off Cape Finisterre, which he completely defeated. Not one of the enemy escaped. Two of the French ships were called *L'Invincible*, and *La Gloire*. Jonquiere, the admiral, one of the ablest and most intrepid officers in the service, on presenting his sword to the conqueror,

(1) Dug. Warw.

pointed to these two vessels, and with equal wit and address, said to Lord Anson, “ *Monsieur, vous avez vaincu l’Invincible, et la Gloire vous suit.* ”

The last service which Lord Anson performed, was that of convoying to England her present majesty Queen Charlotte. He married a daughter of the Earl of Hardwicke, who died before him without issue. Soame Jenyns, author of the “ View of the Internal Evidences of Christianity,” and of a “ Poem on Dancing” wrote some stanzas on this marriage, from which I shall quote the two first :

Victorious Anson, see returns
From the subjected main !
With joy each British bosom burns,
Fearless of France and Spain.

Honours, his grateful sovereign’s hand,
Conquest, his own bestows ;
Applause unfeigned, his native land,
Unenvied wealth, her fops.

Mallet also published a poem on the death of Lady Anson, in 1761, addressed to her father Lord Hardwicke; in which he attempts to describe the feelings of Lord Anson on that occasion, in the following lines :

And he, who long unshaken, and serene,
Had death in each dire form of terror seen,
Through worlds unknown o’er unknown oceans tost :
By love subdued, now weeps his consort lost :
Now sunk to fondness all the man appears,
His front dejected, and his soul in tears.

This illustrious man, who had been for some time in a languid state of health, died suddenly, just after walking in his gar-

den, at his seat called Moor Park, in Hertfordshire, on the 6th of June, 1762.

Lord Anson was remarkable for his calm, cool, and steady temper, in the most trying occasions ; though it was said of him, that like an honest unsuspecting sailor, he was sometimes the dupe of sharpers, and other designing persons ; on which account it was wittily observed, “ *That though he had been round the world, he had never been in it.*” No literary work ever met with a more favourable reception from the public, than “ Lord Anson’s Voyage round the World ;” it has been translated into most of the European languages, and still supports its reputation. It was composed by Mr. Benjamin Robins, under his lordship’s own inspection, and from the materials which he furnished. (1)

The authors of the “ Dictionnaire des Hommes Célèbres,” though in general very much prejudiced in favour of their own countrymen, have paid the following just tribute of applause to the memory of Lord Anson :—“ La gloire de l’amiral Anson, ne fut pas seulement fondée sur le succès de ses armes, sur sa valeur, sur son intrépidité ; il fut homme de bien : il respecta l’humanité lors même que son bras s’armoit pour la détruire. On pourroit citer plusieurs actions de vertu, et de générosité, qui honoreroient sa mémoire, si la nature de cet ouvrage ne nous prescrivoit des bornes trop étroites. Il est à souhaiter que quelque bon écrivain se charge de transmettre à la posterité les actions de ce grand homme.”

Lord Anson was buried in the family vault in the village church at Colwich. His portrait is in the dining-room at Shugborough. The celebrated Lavater, in his ingenious essays, expresses much admiration of the countenance of this great man ; and has in-

(1) Biog. Brit. art Anson.

serted his portrait in the list of those which he recommends to the attentive consideration of all lovers of the science of physiognomy.

Thomas Anson, Esq. the elder brother of Lord Anson, was possessed of a moderate, but in those times an independent fortune; and not choosing to shackle himself in the bonds of matrimony, spent a considerable part of his youth in visiting foreign climes: and is said to have explored the coasts of Egypt, and to have sailed a considerable way up the Nile. As he travelled over the same countries, so he appears to have derived the same advantage from his travels as Ulysses:

Περιπολίς ταῦτα πολλά καὶ ξένα περιήγησεν

Wandering from clime to clime observant strayed,
Their manners noted, and their states surveyed. (1)

Mr. Anson had a highly cultivated mind, and was particularly fond of the society of men of genius, learning, and science. In the year 1762, he succeeded to a vast property, by the death of his

(1) Harris, the author of "Hermes," and other very learned and ingenious works, relates that Mr. Anson informed him, that during the time of his travels in Greece, he hired a vessel and a pilot to make the tour of the Grecian Isles; and that during their cruise, having approached the island of Tenedos, the pilot on a sudden said to him, *It was there our fleet lay. What fleet?* said Mr. Anson: *what fleet! why our fleet at the siege of Troy.*

How well was Homer acquainted with the genius of his nation, when he put into the mouth of Hector, that noble speech in the seventh book of the Iliad, where in the compass of a few lines he expresses all the feelings of ambition, all the enthusiasm of glory, which ever animated the breast of a hero :

You then, O princes of the Greeks appear,
Tis Hector speaks, and calls the gods to hear:

brother Lord Anson, who had previously increased his patrimony by several liberal donations. He immediately determined on enlarging his mansion at Shugborough, to a size more suitable to his increased fortune and opulence ; and at the same time conceived the noble project of embellishing the whole surrounding country. In the progress of these improvements, he clothed the steep naked skirts of Cannock Heath, called the Satnell Hills, with large plantations of fir and beech ; and erected a lofty obelisk in Haywood Park, which was at once a land mark, and a pleasing object to the eye on every side. It is now unfortunately blown down. (1)

About this time, that ingenious architect, James Stuart, commonly called the *Athenian*, returned to England, and brought

From all your troops select the boldest knight,
And him, the boldest, Hector dares to fight.—
And if Apollo, in whose aid I trust,
Shall stretch your daring champion in the dust ;
If mine the glory to despoil the foe,
On Phœbus' temple I'll his arms bestow :
The breathless carcase to your navy sent,
Greece on the shore shall raise a monument ;
Which when some *future mariner* surveys
Washed by broad Hellespont's resounding seas,
Thus shall he say, “ a valiant Greek lies there,
By Hector slain the mighty man of war.”
The stone shall tell your vanquished hero's name,
And distant ages learn the victor's fame.

Pope's *Il. b. 7. l. 58.*

(1) Gilpin, in his “ Picturesque Tour,” vol. 1. has given a description of Shugborough ; but it has been greatly altered and improved since he wrote.

homé with him his correct and beautiful drawings of the principal architectural remains of ancient Greece. He was invited to Shugborough, and under his direction a monument after the model of Adrian's Arch, at Athens, was erected in a conspicuous spot, to the memory of Lord Anson. It is called the “Triumphant Arch ;” and is decorated with medallions of white marble, emblematic of naval victories. Above the arch is a kind of colonade, divided into three compartments ; of which, the centre is occupied by a military trophy, and the sides by *sarcophagi*, ornamented with the busts of Lord and Lady Anson : the whole of white marble. From Stuart's designs, buildings were also erected in imitation of the “Choragic Monument of Lysicrates,” called from its shape, “The Lanthorn of Demosthenes ;” and of the “Octagon Tower of Andronicus Cyrrhestes,” better known by the name of “The Temple of the Winds.”⁽¹⁾

Mr. Anson died at an advanced age, leaving his noble property to his nephew George Adams, Esq. who took the name of Anson, and was succeeded by his son the present Viscount.

Besides the elegant and classical monuments above-mentioned, which are at a considerable distance from the mansion, there are several tasteful buildings and seats in the Pleasure Grounds, and many valuable pictures, and antique statues in the house. Four of the most capital statues are in the vestibule to the dining-room, which represent Paris, Amphitrite, Neptune, and a Faun and Satyr. By the side of these, is a beautiful Bacchus, by Nollekens ; on the base of which, in imitation of the ancient sculptors, he has inscribed his name in Greek characters, Νόλλεκενς ἐποίει, perhaps with the conscious sentiment of having executed a statue worthy to be classed with the finest remains of ancient Greece ;

(1) See Stuart's “Antiq. of Athens,” chap. 3. tab. 1 and 3, and chap. 1 and 3.

the sentiment which inflamed the breast of Correggio, when, on beholding the masterpieces of Raphael, he exclaimed, *Ed io anche son pittore.*

“ Among a great number of statues, says Pennant, an Adonis, and a Thalia, are the most capital. There is also a very fine figure of Trajan, in the attitude of haranguing his army. The number of rude Etruscan figures in the garden, show the extravagance of the earliest ages, and the great antiquity of the art of sculpture, in Italy, long before the Romans became a people. The beautiful monument in the lower end of the garden does honour to the present age. It was the work of Mr. Schemeeker, under the direction of the late Mr. Anson. The scene is laid in Arcadia. Two lovers, expressed in ancient pastoral figures, appear attentive to an ancient shepherd, who reads to them an inscription on a tomb : *Et in Arcadic ego.* The moral resulting from this seems to be, that there are no situations in life so delicious, but which death must at length snatch us from. (1) It was placed here by the amiable owner as a memento of the certainty of that event. Perhaps also as a secret memorial of some loss of a tender nature in his early days ; for he was wont often to hang over it in affectionate and firm meditation. (2). The Chinese house, a little further on, is

(1) Pennant seems not to have known that this is the subject of a beautiful painting by Poussin, which is highly extolled by the judicious Abbé Du Bos, in his excellent work, “ Reflexions sur la Poesie et la Peinture.”

(2) This opinion is the more probable from the following mysterious inscription on the top of the monument, which Pennant has omitted to notice :

O. U. O. S. V. A. V. V.

D. M.

The meaning of these letters, Mr. Anson would never explain ; and they still remain an enigma to posterity.

a true pattern of the architecture of that nation, taken in the country by the skilful pencil of Sir Percy Brett.”(1)

Among the paintings are two capital pictures by Guido : *Susanna and the Elders*; and *St. Peter in Prison*; two by Domenichino ; a landscape by Claude Lorrain ; landscapes by Nich. and Gasp. Poussin ; and several pieces by Vanderveldt, Teniers, and other eminent masters, both of the Italian and Flemish schools. But the wonder of this collection are the paintings of the present Lady Anson ; of whose pencil there are not less than five finished productions displayed in these apartments. One is a copy from Teniers ; the subject *Anthony visiting Paul in the Desert*; and executed before her ladyship had attained the fifteenth year of her age. Another, is a group, representing her three eldest children, taken from life ; a third, is a large Landscape ; *Cattle in a storm*, from Loutherbourg.

The exertions and improvements of Thomas Anson, Esq. above described, though very great, yet appear trifling, when compared with those of the present possessor. His lordship has added a magnificent portico of ten fluted columns, of the Corinthian order, to the front of his house ; without destroying the symmetry of the edifice, has joined to it two noble apartments ; one, a drawing-room, 46 feet by 28 ; the other a saloon, 54 by 22 ; supported on each side by six columns of Scagliola marble. The old village of Shugborough, which stood inconveniently near, has been entirely removed to a distant eminence ;(2) and a new street has been formed in the village of Great Haywood, closed at one end with handsome iron gates. His lordship has cut a new channel for the

(1) “ Jour. from Chest. to London.”

(2) This village, which stands on the high ground between Great and Little Haywood, near Wolseley-bridge, on the road from London to Liverpool, is worthy of the attention of the traveller. It does not consist like other

river Sow, for a considerable distance ; and has removed a stone bridge of three arches, which crossed that river at Hollisford, to a more convenient spot, about half a mile higher up the stream. He has erected lodges at the entrance of the principal approaches to Shugborough, which are much admired : and has diverted a part of the great public road from London to Chester, (between Lichfield and Stafford) which ran through his grounds, and has turned it across Cannock Heath, through a mountainous defile, which strikes the traveller with admiration, not only from its natural wildness, but by the extraordinary contrast it exhibits with the richly-cultivated scenery at each extremity of the pass.

Many formidable obstacles presented themselves against the accomplishment of these princely undertakings : but his lordship inherits the enterprising spirit, which animated, and supported the indefatigable exertions of his far-famed ancestor ; who took for his maxim, that heroic exclamation of Teucer—*Nil desperandum*—which afterwards, on his elevation to the peerage, he most appropriately adopted for the family motto.

Having detained the reader, perhaps too long, in the preceding description of the Boundaries, by which, as with a splendid and

villages, of a number of scattered dwellings, but is one building, inclosing a court, into which the front doors of all the cottages open. In the middle is a public oven, and a place for fuel opposite the door of each cottage. Every cottage has a garden, or piece of ground at the back ; and one of them is a school for the children of the village. From a gate, on the other side of the road, opposite the village, there is a delightful view of the vale of Shugborough, bounded by Tixall.

Lord Anson's experimental farm, is also an object of no small curiosity, and yields to few of the kind in England.

magnificent frame, the parish of Tixall is so happily surrounded, it is now time to proceed to the contemplation of the picture itself. For this purpose, I shall begin by considering its soil and situation.

The parish of Tixall enjoys the advantage of a southern aspect, rising by a gradual acclivity towards the north, and dropping eastward to the Trent, and westward to the river Sow. It contains a great variety of soil. The eastern side is a stiff clay, very favourable to the growth of wheat; the western is a light gravel, well suited to the cultivation of barley and turnips: on the north, adjoining Hopton Heath, there is a selvage of poor, moorish ground; but to the south, south-west, and south-east, the parish terminates in a tract of rich meadow land, stretching about three miles in length, and watered by the two rivers above-mentioned. The soil of the centre, and principal part of the parish, is a rich loam, adapted to every kind of husbandry. It has a *substratum* of rocky marl, from fifteen to thirty feet thick; and beneath this, is a bed of beautiful freestone, nearly of equal thickness. The marl cannot be obtained without difficulty and expence, on account of its hardness: when dug out of the pit, it is broken into small pieces, and thrown like stones upon the ground; but after it has been exposed to the operation of frost, it quickly dissolves, and the plough easily incorporates it with the soil. This manure is of so permanent a nature, that a field properly dressed with it, is said to want no further assistance for twenty years.

The freestone yields to none in England for the beauty of its grain and colour; it is soft, and easily wrought when first taken out of the quarry, but after it has been exposed to the air it becomes hard and durable. The ornamental parts of the old buildings at Tixall, which have stood above 250 years, do not appear at all defaced, and exhibit no marks of the injuries of time.

Since the completion of the canals in this neighbourhood, this stone has found its way to a considerable distance. The county hall, and hotel, and all the stone-work of the gaol, at Stafford, are built of it; as is also the newbridge at Radford, near Stafford, on the great road from London to Chester; and many other bridges and private houses in the country. It has even been transported to Birmingham, to build the cupola of St. Philip's church in that town; and to Worcester, where it forms the battlements and ballustrades of the beautiful bridge over the Severn in that city. The proprietor receives a mine-rent of 2s. 6d. or 5s. for each cubic yard, the weight of which is about a ton. (1)

The parish of Tixall has undergone most striking alterations, and material improvements during the last sixty years. About the year 1740, it was distributed as follows: Behind the house, there was a deer-park of about 600 acres, covered with stately oaks, and large thickets of very luxuriant gorse; west of the house, was a rabbit-warren of more than 400 acres; the farm-houses were all situated in the village, except two, called *Hanyard* and *Brancote*, by which names they are distinguished in the oldest records. The rest of the parish, except the demesne and about forty acres of glebe-land, lay mostly in open fields, and common meadows, in which each farmer had his share and allotment.

In the centre of the parish stood the venerable mansion, half surrounded and smothered up by a scattered village, in which the clergyman, the smaller farmers, and the cottagers had their abode. About the year 1748, James, fifth Lord Aston, inclosed a great

(1) In these freestone quarries are frequently found those hollow agate balls, or *geodes*, the internal surface of which is commonly covered with numerous crystals of *quartz*: they are generally more or less fractured, seldom entire, and are technically termed by mineralogists, *drusy cavities*.

part of the rabbit-warren, and granted it on a lease for lives to the tenant at Brancote. He also determined to erect a new mansion on the ruins of the old one ; and for this purpose cut down the most valuable oaks, leaving however quite sufficient for beauty and shelter. He lived only long enough to erect a quadrangle, containing excellent offices, and some good bed-chambers ; so that at his death in 1750, the old residence remained nearly as it was when first erected : of which, in its entire state, a very good view is preserved in Plot's "History of Staffordshire," plate 58.

After the death of Lord Aston, and during the minority of his two daughters and coheiresses, who were left under the guardianship of their uncles, the Duke of Norfolk, and the Earl of Shrewsbury, the house at Tixall was for many years neglected and forsaken. In the year 1768, Barbara, the youngest daughter of James, Lord Aston, being of age, a division of his estates was made between the two sisters ; in consequence of which her husband, the Hon. Thomas Clifford, obtained possession of the house and estate of Tixall. He soon found that the upper stories of the old mansion were unsafe to inhabit. He was therefore compelled to retreat into the quadrangle above-mentioned, in which he lived several years. At length he determined on adding a new house to this quadrangle, the shell of which was completed in 1782, but the upper apartments only were finished and inhabited at the time of his death, which happened in 1787.

Some years before he undertook this building, he erected behind the house, new coach-houses and stables ; and formed a complete farm-yard with suitable conveniences : having previously removed the old stables, and dovecote, which stood in the front of his intended new house. He also demolished several cottages which obstructed the prospect, and screened the churchyard, parsonage, and the remainder of the village from the

eye by judicious plantations. He filled up two large ponds which were immediately behind the house, destroyed the old garden, which occupied the slope on the west-side of the ancient mansion, and formed another at a more convenient distance. The approach to the house he altered entirely, and for this purpose, caused a handsome stone bridge to be built over the river Sow at Hollisford. In the progress of these improvements, he was assisted by the taste and judgment of the celebrated Brown, (1) and his pupil Eames.

But Tixall is indebted to a fortuitous circumstance, for one of its most beautiful features. About the year 1766, was undertaken the navigable cut, called the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, which passes for more than two miles through the parish of Tixall. The Hon. Thomas Clifford had the canal widened in this part of its course, into the breadth and sweep of a noble river ; which appearance, or that of an inland lake, it now presents, when seen from the house, or the grounds about it. To bring this fine object more into sight, he removed, at a great expense, a bank of rock which obstructed the prospect from the house, took down a great many feuces, and threw the interven-

(1) Launcelot Brown, who attained such celebrity for his skill and taste in laying out grounds, came into Lord Cobham's service at Stow, as a boy, in the year 1737, and was employed in the gardens till 1750 ; but he had no share, as has generally been supposed, in any of the improvements, they having been completed before he came to Stow. Those celebrated gardens were first designed by Lord Cobham, assisted by Bridgman and Kent ; but to the latter, whose taste was much superior to that of Bridgman, they owe most of their present beauty. It was the good taste which Brown evinced, while employed by the Duke of Grafton, to whom he was recommended by Lord Cobham, that laid the foundation of his future fame and fortune.

ing ground between the house and the water, into the form of a beautiful sloping lawn. Nor was his attention solely confined to objects of taste and beauty. Finding that the farmers at Tixall could not employ their lands to the best advantage, from the circumstance of their being much intermixed, he first set aside a sufficient portion of the parish for demesne, and then divided the remainder into eight compact farms, and erected two new farm-houses. He cut off near 500 acres from the park, which he devoted to agriculture, and planted a handsome belt of wood to conceal them from the eye. He also made a large plantation on Tixall Heath, which was a part of the rabbit-warren that had not been brought into cultivation.

In the year 1768, he purchased the Whitby estate, containing about 800 acres; and consisting chiefly of the manor of Coley, the Swansmoor Farm, and other scattered property at Hixon, and Haywood. This was a most desirable purchase, being all intermixed with, or contiguous to the ancient property of the Astons; and to render this estate still more compact, he made some other small purchases in the neighbourhood. The neat and commodious house of Oakedge, near Wolseley-bridge, then newly built, with 200 acres of land surrounding it, was part of this purchase; but it was sold again immediately to Thomas Anson, Esq. elder brother of the great Lord Anson.

Since that period, the whole of this property has continued in a progressive state of improvement; and the present possessor finds himself seated in the centre of a well cultivated estate, lying nearly in a ring fence.

Of the farm-houses in Tixall parish, five are scattered about in the most convenient spots for the accommodation of the farmer; but the church, the parsonage, the village, and the mansion, are situated near each other, and almost in the centre of the parish.

The church is a rectory in the gift of the proprietor of the pa-

rish, and is endowed with about forty acres of glebe-land, lying all together at one extremity of the parish : more than two-thirds of which are protected from tithe, by a *modus* of 10*l.* a year : of the rest the rector is entitled to the great and small tithes. The value of the living is estimated at between 200*l.* and 500*l.* a year. The church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was rebuilt in 1772, and is a small neat edifice, calculated to contain about eighty persons. Against one side of the chancel, is an oval monument of white marble, with this inscription :

M. S.

Simonis Wakelin

Gulielmi Wakelin de Uttoxeter, et Dorotheæ
Uxoris, filii unici, Artium Magistri,
Rectorisque hujus Ecclesiae, cui, (præter
beneficia quæ contulerat vivus) moriens
patenam, calicemque argenteum, vico
verò de Uttoxeter (natali suo) perpetuos
fundi cujusdam sui redditus ad usum pauperum reliquit.

Obiit 25^a die Martis, A.D. 1698—ætatis suæ 58.

The legacy of Mr. Wakelin to Tixall church, which is commemorated in this epitaph, consisted of two silver cups or chalices, which are still in use.

In the churchyard at Tixall, there is an altar-tomb affixed to the church, in memory of Richard Biddulph, who was steward to four successive generations of the Aston family ; on which is the following inscription, now almost defaced, and scarcely legible :

Hearc lieth Richard Biddulph, that was born at Tixal in the yeare of our Lord 1546 and died on the 15th June in the 82^d yeare of his age : he served 4 of the Astons, Sir Edw. Aston, Sir Wa. Aston, Sir Edw. Aston, and W. Lord Aston : He was faithful and

diligent in his service. He was loving to his friends, and a just man towards all. He was beloved of his masters, and having spent his whole time in their service, Walter Lord Aston payes this acknowledgement to his memorie. 1627.

There is only this one instance of great longevity :

Ralph Hadderstitch
died 5th Octr. 1777.
in his 102d year.

About the year 1755, the Rev. Thomas Loxdale was rector of Tixall. He was a man of learning, and fond of antiquarian researches ; and assisted Dr. Wilkes in his endeavours to collect materials for a county history. Many of his letters on this subject have been published by the Rev. Stebbing Shaw, in the beginning of the second volume of his very imperfect and ill-digested History of Staffordshire. Mr. Loxdale composed a little work, entitled “The Parochial Antiquities of Staffordshire,” which was never published. The manuscript came into the possession of Mr. Astle, and afterwards, together with the other papers of that ingenious gentleman, became the property of the late Marquis of Buckingham : by whose kind permission, I have been enabled to extract some useful information, relative to the parish of Tixall, from Mr. Loxdale’s work. He asserts in one place, that Wetenhall, Bishop of Cork, was born at Tixall ; a man of note in his time, and of whom some account is given by Wood, in his “Athenæ Oxonienses.”

Mr. Loxdale has preserved the following list of the Rectors of Tixall :

Mr. Murrall, ab'. 1600.

Mr. Turner.

Mr. Dan. Baily. He was rector of St. Mary's Stafford.

Mr. Gillbody.

Mr. Tho. Tooth.

Mr. Ralf Phillips.

Mr. Simon Wakelyn. He was nephew to Sir Simon Degg, and a great Benefactor to the place and Parish. He also made an attempt to have broke through the modus of 10*l.* which L^d. Aston pays for his Demesne, but was cast.

Mr. Richard Drakeford. Rector of St. Mary's Stafford.

Mr. Ludgeter, resigned.

Mr. Tho^r. Holbroke, son of the Rector of Edgmond.

He was Fund^r. nostræ calamitatis, destroying all the Registers, so that I can fix noe time.

Tho^r. Loxdale.

The present incumbent is the Rev. William Corne, who has been rector of Tixall, ever since the year 1760; and though now above eighty years of age, is still in complete possession of all his faculties. He reads the smallest print without spectacles, which indeed he never uses. He has an active mind, is a good scholar, and possesses a retentive memory stored with various information and amusing anecdotes, which he loves to communicate, and in a very agreeable manner to those who enjoy the pleasure of his company. On my presenting him a copy of the poem on the ruins of Tixall, which concludes this work, he very good-humouredly said, after having perused it, that he could find no fault with it, except that there was no mention in it of him; for that he considered himself as one of the principal *ruins* of the place.

The parsonage house is very near the church, and is pleasantly situated, commanding a fine prospect of lawn and water. A little to the west of the parsonage, is the village, consisting of about a dozen scattered dwellings, one of them a considerable farm-house. The chaplain to the family at Tixall, (which is Roman Catholic) resides also in the village. The gentleman who fills that situation at present, is Mr. Le Sage, a French emigrant clergyman, and grand-nephew of the ingenious author of *Gil Blas*.

About 35 years ago, the celebrated *Ann Moor*, the fasting woman of Tutbury, lived in this village. Her grandfather, Mr. Halford, was a surgeon of eminence at Norbury in Derbyshire, who indulging in an expensive style of life, left behind him at his death two orphan daughters, without any means for their subsistence. One of them was nursery maid at Tixall-house for many years ; and died a few years ago at Tixall village, greatly respected and esteemed for her piety and virtue, and for her many estimable qualities, which justly endeared her to all who knew her. Her sister married Thomas Pegg, a common labourer, by whom she had a daughter, called Ann Pegg, now Ann Moor. About the year 1777, Ann Pegg entered into the service of Mrs. Savage, a widow lady, who, after her husband's death, occupied a small house in Tixall village. Ann Pegg was then about sixteen years of age, and is said to have possessed a considerable share of beauty. She afterwards married John Moor, a labourer, but soon forsook her husband, and led for many years a disorderly life.

The fact of her total abstinence from food, during five or six years, after having been generally believed, was at length proved to be an imposture : she however shewed that she had acquired great powers of abstinence, by remaining nine days and nights without any sustenance before she would own the deceit.

The parish of Tixall, from the variety of low and elevated

ground which it contains, presents in different parts, a great number of pleasing views, and interesting objects. These cannot be better pointed out to the reader, than by conducting him along the course of a ride, or drive, which has been carried round the parish, for the purpose of showing these prospects to the best advantage.

You first ascend a semicircular verdant slope, crowned with wood, which shelters the house from the east. The view from the summit is of the same kind as that enjoyed by the mansion below, only much more various and extensive. The celebrated Brown could not behold the scene without rapture, and urged the owner to build a house there. And indeed, on casting your eyes around from this spot, you feel ready to exclaim with the poet—

Heavens! what a goodly prospect spreads round
Of hills and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
And glittering towns, and gilded streams, till all
The stretching landscape into smoke decays! (1)

But the rage for elevated situations, so prevalent some years ago, is now much abated ; and in the opinion of most visitors at Tixall, no better spot, than the one where the house actually stands, could easily be found, which would at once embrace the united objects of shelter, comfort, and beauty.

The ride now enters a grove of spreading trees, and is conducted along a natural terrace, in a northern direction ; being skirted on the west by a plantation of thriving oaks, while an extensively varied prospect opens to the east. You first look down on the playful mazes of the Trent, winding through the fertile

(1) Thomson's " Seasons."

meadows on its banks, till it is lost in the busy scene at Haywood Wharf, where the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal terminates in the Grand Trunk: just beyond, the populous village of Great Haywood, interspersed with trees, stretches on each side of the high road from London to Liverpool; and behind Haywood, a range of pasture ground gradually rising from the valley, leads the eye to Coley Farm, a small estate and manor belonging to Tixall, which commands the most enchanting prospects, and from which, on a clear day, the lofty spires of Lichfield cathedral are distinctly visible. A little to the east of Coley, the horizon is bounded by the massive woods of Blithfield; (behind which stands Blithfield-house, the ancient seat of the family of Bagot) whose towering oaks, for number, height, straitness, and value, are esteemed the finest in England. (1)

(1) "The first and best timbered estate is that of Lord Bagot's, to the north of Abbot's Bromley. The woods extend over many hundred acres, and almost wholly consist of oak, the ripest, finest, and best that I ever saw; and I believe I run no risk of exceeding the bounds of truth, if I say the best in the kingdom. A very large quantity of oak in these woods is now quite ripe, and some even decaying. Many of the oaks carry timber to the length of 60 and 70 feet; and in Lord Bagot's park, there are many hundreds of very extraordinary bulk, containing from 200 to 400 feet of timber each. I could pick out many worth 60 guineas a piece, and some even more. Some of the timber is of considerable antiquity, and mentioned by Dr. Plot, as full grown timber in 1686. I was informed upon the spot, that for these woods 100,000*l.* has been offered; and that his lordship has half as much timber in Denbighshire. Total value of timber 150,000*l.*: which in the three per cents at the present price, would purchase an income for ever of more than 6000 guineas per annum. The succession-woods, and young plantations, are very considerable, and still continuing; and upon land not worth a rent of 10*s.* an acre, paying bet-

Contiguous to Blithfield are Kingston woods, the property of Earl Talbot.

Wandering down the vale of Trent, the eye is attracted by the singular appearance of volumes of white smoke, perpetually rising from the salt-works of Shirleywich, over the lower groves of Ingestrie. These salt-works, and those of Cheshire, and of Droitwich in Worcestershire, are said to be the only inland salt-works of any consequence in the kingdom.

As the ride extends, you are gratified with the sight of the prettily scattered village of Hixon, studded with trees; and beyond it, over Loxley Park, the seat of Clement Kynnersley, Esq. you enjoy a diversified prospect of great extent, bounded by the blue mountains of Derbyshire; and the Weever Hills, on the confines of the county of Stafford. At the foot of these high hills stands Wooton, remarkable for having afforded an asylum to the eccentric J. J. Rousseau. (1) About a mile to the north of Hixon, is

ter than in any other way. It is also upon a poor cold land of this description, that the above fine timber chiefly abounds, the soil being a moist gravelly loam upon a clay or marl bottom. The young plantations are made sometimes by sowing acorns with wheat after summer fallow; and sometimes by planting out young plants of oak, and other wood: in which case, at the end of one or two years, when such plants have taken well to the ground, they are cut off at the surface, and the second shoot trusted to for the tree: this second shoot thriving with much more luxuriance and vigour than the first checked by transplanting. Also after cutting down a wood, the replanting is sometimes effected by striking in with a pickaxe, a sufficient number of acorns and other seeds of forest trees, or underwood; and all these methods have been attended with success. The young plantations are well fenced, and carefully guarded from trespass by a woodman appointed for that purpose. (Pitt's "Agric. Surv. of Staff.")

(1) It appears that Rousseau had signified to Hume, who took a lively

seen the little parish church of Stowe, where lies entombed Walter, first Viscount Hereford, grandson of the first Lord Fer-

concern in his welfare, that he wished to procure a rural retirement in England; but that his independent spirit would not suffer him to reside in any house, but where he should be allowed to pay for his board. This coming to the knowledge of Mr. Davenport, then possessor of Wooton, who was eager to have such an inmate, he informed Rousseau, that living in a very cheap part of England, and remote from the metropolis, he could afford to board him, and his *gouvernante* Mademoiselle Le Vasseur, for a very trifling consideration. The sum proposed is said to have been so small, that Rousseau could not but have seen through the deceit. This extraordinary being however seems to have gladly closed with a proposal which promised to reconcile so well the contending interests of his pride and purse, and took up his abode at Wooton, in the month of March, 1766. It was here that he set on foot his strange quarrel with Hume, his friend and benefactor; which affords ample proof, on his side, either of a bad heart, or a disordered imagination. Towards the end of the summer of the same year, Rousseau quitted Wooton, and shortly after returned to France. The tradition of this part of the country respecting the cause of his departure is curious. It is said, that his *gouvernante* one day told him, that she had, unperceived, seen the cook put some unusual ingredients into his broth, and that she feared there was an intention of taking him off by poison. She was probably tired of the solitude of a country life, and to effect her removal, endeavoured to take advantage of his suspicious and irritable temper. However that might be, she was immediately dispatched to the next town for a postchaise; and in the meantime Rousseau remained for some hours in the open air, till the chaise arrived, refusing to be sheltered for a moment longer, under a roof, where such a flagrant and enormous breach of hospitality had been intended!

There is a popular distich concerning this place, greatly to the disadvantage of its situation :

Wooton under Weever,
Where the sun comes never.

ters of Chartley, who was descended from the great Norman family of De Ferrers, earls of Derby. (1) Here the attention is fixed by a swelling knoll, crowned with the ruins of Chartley-castle. They consist of the remains of two round towers, and of a wall almost hid in wood. A little below this ruined castle, stood the family mansion, which was destroyed by fire in 1781. On this occasion, perished an embroidered bed, the workmanship of the ill-fated Mary of Scotland, who was for some time imprisoned at Chartley. Behind the house lies the park, a wide heathy tract, peopled with stags, fallow deer, and wild cattle. Mr. Gisborne, in his popular and elegant poem, entitled "Walks in a Forest," has finely imagined that the melancholy queen would sometimes sadly contrast the wearisomeness of her confinement, with the sportiveness of these animals, when observing their frisky gambols through the grated windows of her tower (2) in Tutbury-castle.

- - - - - Through the stony chink,
Wonton the near-approaching fœ to pour
The arrowy storm, *on these wild banks she gazed :*
While Fancy, minister of woe, with hand

(1) The monument, which is of white marble, was erected in his lifetime. His figure is represented in robes, with the collar of the garter round his neck: his head repose on a plume of feathers wreathed round a helmet. On one side of him is placed his first lady, Mary, daughter of Thomas, Marquis of Dorset; on the other, his second, Margaret, daughter of Robert Garnish, Esq. of Kington, in Suffolk. Around the sides of the tomb are six male, and six female figures, the former girt with swords. Above, is a canopy of oak, which was once richly gilded, and is decorated with the arms of Devereux, and Ferrers, quarterly; and impaled on either side, with those of his two wives.

(2) Queen Mary was removed from Tutbury-castle to Chartley, in the year 1585, under the care of Sir Amias Pawlet. During her confinement here,

Officious, to her view presented still
 Gay troops of forest deer, unprisoned airs
 Inhaling, and as frolic sport inspired,
 Bounding unfettered.

The drive now traverses a wood near half a mile in length, the safe and undisturbed retreat of the partridge, the pheasant, and the hare. Towards the extremity of the wood, a view is opened to the west into Tixall Park, and the eye is drawn across a hanging bank of oaks, to the towers and battlements of the keeper's lodge ; which was built by the present possessor in a castellated form, presenting an embattled wall, flanked at each end, by a square embattled tower. It stands on an elevated spot, and in one of the towers is a tea-room with three different aspects, commanding very pleasing prospects to the south, west, and north.

Issuing from the wood, you enter the park, and ascend gra-

one Babington, a youth of an ardent mind, formed a plan for her deliverance, and conveyed letters to her by a brewer, who was bribed to put them in secretly, and receive answers through a hole in the wall. In a letter she wrote to him, dated 27 July, 1586, she tells him, " that he might intercept her as she rode abroad for recreation in the fields between Chartley and Stafford." On the discovery of this plot, she was removed to Fotheringay-castle, in Northamptonshire, 20 Sept. 1586, where she was executed on the 8th of Feb. following. (Camden, " Hist. of Queen Eliz." b. 3. p. 75.) Sir Edw. Aston, Sir Ric. Bagot, and another, by authority granted unto them under the queen's warrant, committed Naiye and Curril, her (Q. Mary's) two secretaries, to several custodies, that they might not confer either one with the other, or with the queen. And then breaking open the doors of her private closet, they sent all her cabinets wherin her papers were kept, sealed up with their seals, to the court.—*Ibid.* p. 79.

dually to the highest point of it, when bending rather sharply round a woody brow, a noble display of forest scenery suddenly bursts upon the view. Below, an extensive grove of oaks almost conceals the intervening valley, and connects the park with Can-nock Heath, which rises boldly above the trees, and from this spot appears crowned with a spreading wood called Brockton Coppice. In the front of this wood is an obelisk sixty feet high, erected by Thomas Anson, Esq. From its situation, and from the various points from which it can be seen, it is an object of picturesque beauty, and a landmark to all the country round for many miles. (1). To the south, the eye stretches ten miles further across the heath, till it rests on an elevated summit, called Style Cop, behind which are the woods of Beaudesert Park, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesey.

Below me trees unnumbered rise,
Beautiful in various dies :
The gloomy pine, the poplar blue,
The yellow beech, the sable yew,
The slender fir, that taper grows,
The sturdy oak, with broad-spread boughs.
Gaudy as the opening dawn,
Lies a long and level lawn,
On which a dark hill, steep and high,
Holds and charms the wandering eye.

Shortly after, the drive crosses the extremity of a fine avenue, composed of four rows of trees, chiefly beech, and horse-chesnut ; at the other end of which stands the castellated keeper's lodge. You now leave the park, and skirting the *Hanyard Farm*, are suddenly transported from the contemplation of the wild scenes of nature, to a view of cultivated fields, and of the busy haunts of

(1) Since this was written, the obelisk has been unfortunately blown down.

man. This farm occupies the most elevated part of the parish ; as the name of *Hanyard* or *Hanyate* imports ; from *han*, Saxon, high, and *yate*, gate or road. (1) The ride is agreeably sheltered in this part, from the east and north, by the thick woods of Ingeshire, while an extensive prospect opens to the west. The town of Stafford stretches along the valley ; behind it rise the towers of Stafford-castle, on an insulated knoll clothed with firs, and surrounded by a richly cultivated country : above this, is seen a woody bank, called Billington Bury, where are the remains of an ancient encampment ; beyond is the lofty spire of Brewood church, the woods of Chillington, the ancient house of the Giffard family, and Patshull, the seat of Sir Robert Pigot ; the towering Wrekin, and the two Clee Hills in Shropshire, form the horizon. In a clear day, the Malvern Ridge in Worcestershire, and the steeples of Wolverhampton, eighteen miles distant, are plainly discernible. Advancing further to the north, you see the Beacon Hill, and its light clump of trees, rising abruptly out of a level champaign country ; and beyond, the eye rests on Sugnall-hall, an elevated spot, at the foot of which is the town of Eccleshall, (*ecclesiæ aula*) but too low to be conspicuous, and adjoining to it, the castle, now the residence of the bishops of this diocese. It was built by Walter de Langton, Bishop of Lichfield, in the reign of Edward I. Further on, the view sweeps over Hopton Heath, and is terminated by the woods of Swinnerton, in front of which stands Swinnerton-house, eleven miles distant, the seat of the family of Fitzherbert.

Strait mine eye hath caught new pleasures,
As the landkip round it measures :

(1) Perhaps from a road, called Wilson's-lane, now little frequented, which leads from the Hanyard farm-house to Hopton Heath, and is carried along the highest ground in the parish for more than half a mile.

Russet lawns and fallows gray,
 Where the nibbling flocks do stray ;
 Mountains, on whose barren breast
 The lab'ring clouds do often rest ;
 Meadows trim with daisies pied,
 Shallow brooks, and rivers wide :
 Towers and battlements it sees,
 Bosomed high in tufted trees.

From this spot the ride takes a western direction, and winding through some pleasant fields, enters a long plantation consisting chiefly of larch, which leads to Tixall Heath. A part of this heath has been brought into cultivation ; the remainder is covered with a variety of trees and shrubs, for some of which it is indebted to the prolific bounty of nature, for others to the careful hand of art. An opening in the wood discovers a pleasing reach of water formed by the confluence of the Penk, and Sow ; above which, the little parish church of Berkswick, or Baswick, is a pretty object. (1)

In the reign of Henry VII. Tixall Heath was polluted by being made the scene of an atrocious act of assassination. I shall give the story at length, as it is related by Dugdale, in his History of Warwickshire.

“ Sir Philip Chetwynd, Knt. departed this life, 24 H. 6, leaving William his grandchild his heir. Which William, afterwards one of the gentlemen-ushers of the chamber to King Henry VII., became so much envied by Sir Humphrey Stanley, (then of Pipe, co. Staff.) one of the knights for the body to the same king,

(1) This church probably takes its name from Bertle or Bertelin, the hermit of Stafford ; and perhaps this may be the place whither he retired to end his days in solitude, as mentioned above. In the old chartularies of St. Thomas Priory, it is written Bercleswick.—See Appendix.

and sheriff for that county 9 H. 7. as that by means of a counterfeit letter, in the name of Randolph Brereton, Esq. delivered on Friday night before the feast of St. John the Baptist's nativity, requesting his meeting with him at Stafford, the next morning by five of the clock—being allured out of his house at Ingestrie, and passing thitherwards accordingly, with no more attendance than his own son and two servants ; he was waylaid on Tixall Heath, by no less than twenty persons, whereof seven were of the said Sir Humphrey's own family, some with bows, and others with spears, all armed with brigandines, and coats of mail ; who issuing out of a sheep-cote, and a deep dry pit, furiously assaulted him, saying that he should die, and accordingly killed him : the said Sir Humphrey at that time passing by, with at least twenty-four persons on horseback, upon pretence of hunting a deer. All which, the petition to the king made by Alice, his widow, wherein she craves that the said Sir Humphrey and his servants might answer for it, doth manifest."

From other accounts it appears, that Sir Humphrey had interest enough at court to silence the matter ; and that no redress was ever given to Alice, nor any notice taken of the assassination of her husband !

The Rev. Thomas Loxdale, in the MS. before-cited, says, “ In the last century two urns were found on Tixall Heath, lately in the keeping of the Right Hon. Walter Lord Aston. There are, also, two artificial hillocks, called the king's and queen's *low*; (1) which show it to have been a place of action, but as nothing has yet been discovered in any of our historians, there is no room for a conjecture in what age it might be.”

These urns have not been preserved, nor is the account very accurate ; for only twenty years ago, three *lows* were very visible, one

(1) *Low*, or *loc*, Saxon, a hillock, heap, or barrow.

of which has since been levelled with the plough, but not till it had been dug into and examined, though without making any discovery. The other two *lows* are in the woodland part of the heath, and are planted with firs. The name of *king's low* is now forgotten; but that of *queen's low* is partially preserved in the name of the adjoining fields, which are called the *Quinsleys*. Though Mr. Loxdale asserts, that there is no room for conjecture respecting the origin of these artificial hillocks, might we not, with some degree of probability, assign them to the time of the renowned Elfleda, the daughter of Alfred, the valiant and illustrious Queen of Mercia, who built a castle at Stafford, and died in her palace at Tamworth, in the year 919? Tixall Heath, in its ancient state, was a very likely spot for one of the many battles fought by this magnanimous princess, against the Britons and Danes: and if she ordered heaps of earth, as was common in those times, to be raised over the bodies of the slain, would they not naturally be called the *Queen's Lows*? (1).

About the year 1803, a very antique stone cross, which once stood before the gate of a ruined mansion in South Wales, was transported hither and erected on Tixall Heath. It is of a very

(1) Henry of Huntingdon, one of our ancient historians, has preserved the following verses in honour of Elfleda, in which she is styled both king and queen :

O Elfleda potens! O terror Virgo virorum!
Victrix naturæ, nomine digna viri.
Tu quo splendidior fieres, natura puellam,
Te probitas fecit nomen habere viri.

Te mutare de cet sed solùm uomina sexus
Tu *regina* potens, *rexque* trophæa parans:
Jam nec Cæsarei tantum meruere triumphi,
Cæsare splendidior, Virgo, virago, vale.

hard moor-stone ; the shaft, which has eight unequal sides, supports a tablet of an hexagonal form, adorned with very rude carvings ; on one side, a crucifix, on the other, the virgin with the child in her lap. On the edge of the tablet is also a figure, which has been thought by some experienced antiquaries to represent St. John the Evangelist. This cross is now erected on one of the *lows*, amid the congenial gloom of a clump of widely spreading pines, and may be considered as a memorial of the horrible assassination of William Chetwynd.(1)

Having wandered for some time in the sylvan mazes of Tixall Heath, you issue forth into some open, cultivated grounds, which conduct you by a gentle declivity to Brancote Farm.(2) Here the ride assumes quite a novel and distinct appearance. It passes through a narrow dell,(3) along the margin of several successive pools, sweetly overshadowed with umbrageous oaks. This sequestered scenery is continued for half a mile, till skirting the woods of St. Thomas Priory, you break at once upon the vale of Sow.

Enchanting vale ! beyond whate'er the Muse
Has of Achaia or Hesperia sung.
O vale of bliss ! O softly-swellung hills !
On which the power of cultivation lies,
And joys to see the wonders of his toil.

(1) In Britton's "Architectural Antiquities," vol. 1, plate A. fig. 3, there is a cross very similar to this ; and he remarks, that such crosses were commonly set up as sepulchral mementos, and as memorials of battles, murders, and other fatal events.

(2) This name, which is of very long standing, being mentioned in the first records of the barony of Stafford, may be derived from *bran*, a rook or crow ; and *cot* a dwelling. Behind the house is a rough piece of ground, formerly covered with aged oaks, a very likely resort for that social and gregarious bird.

(3) Wythedenslade, before mentioned.

In this part, the vale is confined on each side, by a range of little hills ; those opposite Tixall are agreeably diversified with scattered oaks, bushes of the bright yellow-flowered gorse, young plantations, arable, and fallow grounds, pastures animated by sheep and cattle, and sloping banks, enlivened here and there with a neat cottage and garden. The river flowing through the middle of the valley, the church of Berkswich, the priory of St. Thomas, the steeples of Stafford, and its newly-restored castle complete the prospect.

Ever charming, ever new,
When will the landskape tire the view?
The fountain's fall, the river's flow,
The woody valley warm and low,
The windy summit wild and high,
Roughly rushing on the sky ;
The pleasant seat, the ruined tower,
The naked rock, the shady bower,
The town, and village, dome, and farm, }
Each give each a double charin,
Like pearls upon an Ethiop's arm. }

On the Tixall side of the vale of Sow, the ride advances through the plantations, with which the steep parts of the hills are covered ; and which serve sometimes to show the valley, and the various bends of the river, in the most favourable points of view, and sometimes totally to conceal them from the eye. Leaving these woody heights, you descend to the banks of the river, and following its meanders, soon come in sight of the neat cottage of Mr. Collins at Milford, which with the sheltered house of Mr. Levet, and the woods and mansion of Brockton, the seat of Sir George Chetwynd, successively open to the view. These are succeeded by the romantic knolls of Cannock Heath ; opposite to which, on

the Tixall side, stands Berry Hill, a rough, rocky eminence, supporting a clump of firs. Near the top of the rock is a natural grotto, called Lord Aston's seat, which commands a pleasant prospect up the vale of Sow, terminated by Stafford castle. Near this spot, the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal is carried across the Sow, by an aqueduct which is concealed from sight by a large plantation of willows and poplars, so that the canal appears to be a continuation of the river. The drive follows its course for some distance, till entering the lawn, which faces Tixall house, it bends from the canal towards the north, and reaches the mansion by a gradual ascent, after a circuit of nearly six miles.

From this rapid sketch of the surrounding country, the reader will perceive, that the general aspect of this part of Staffordshire, is that of a cultivated, pastoral, woodland tract, enriched and adorned with all the pleasing accompaniments, which constitute the perfection of the softer kind of landscape. The wild and savage scenes of nature—the rude projecting rock, the yawning chasm, the deep, precipitous glen—scenes, which might delight the daring imagination of a Salvator Rosa, and which his pencil would consecrate—these are not here to be found. Yet, on the other hand, the magic combinations of a Titian, or a Claude, are not unfrequently presented to the raptured eye of an attentive observer. We have here, indeed, no foaming torrent exasperated by rocks, or precipitated in cataracts; no stupendous mountain, rearing its insuperable, snow-wreathed summit above the clouds; no unfathomable lake, reflecting in its crystal bosom the tremendous precipices which start perpendicularly from its sides. Our smiling valleys, and opening glades, are not contrasted by the impenetrable gloom of primeval forests; nor are our views extended, and finished, by the illimitable expanses of the boundless ocean. But, although we cannot boast

of these sublime, or terrific objects, which Nature has thrown together in some other parts of this island ; yet here is

A happy rural seat of various view :

a soft and regular alternation of hill and valley ; a sweet succession of varied, undulating ground, diversified, and embellished with all the variety and beauty, which lawn, wood, and water can bestow : presenting on every side, the loveliest scenes to the eye of the painter, and the fancy of the poet, and combining in the happiest manner, all the comfort, convenience, and elegance of rural life.

*O fortuné séjour ! O champs aimés des cieux !
Que, pour jamais foulant vos près délicieux,
Ne puis-je ici fixer ma course vagabonde,
Et, connu de vous seuls, ignorer tout le moude.*

To complete the topographical delineation of the parish of Tixall, it now remains to describe the family mansion, or seat of the proprietor. Tixall house is situated nearly in the centre of the parish, and occupies altogether a considerable extent of ground ; but the only part fully exposed to view is the south front, which was erected, as above-mentioned, by the late Hon. Thomas Clifford. It is built of Tixall stone, and is ornamented with a portico of four columns, of the Doric order ; the shaft of each column being a single block of stone fifteen feet in length. The front is extended by a screen on each side, decorated in like manner with Doric columns and pilasters, which serve to conceal the offices, and to give consequence to the building : the whole forming a façade of 144 feet. Each screen is surmounted by a large pedestal, on which were placed, a few years ago, two lions couchant, from Coade's manufactory at Lambeth. The elegant simplicity of the architecture of this front, together with its situation, never

fails to strike every beholder with pleasure. The interior of the house was fitted up under the direction of Mr. Samuel Wyatt, of the Albion Mills. On the left of the hall, which is 24 feet square, is a library, 28 feet, by 24, which contains about 4,000 volumes. The principal part of this library was collected by the Aston family, during the seventeenth century; but many valuable modern works in various languages, have been added during the last sixty years.

The library at Tixall has been lately decorated with a splendid painting from the skilful hand of Mr. Bird, of the Royal Academy, Historical Painter to the Princess Charlotte of Wales. This gentleman went to Dover in the month of April 1814, by the command of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in order to draw the scene of the embarkation of his Most Christian Majesty Louis XVIII. for France. This painting by Mr. Bird is now in the Collection of his Royal Highness; and the counterpart to it, representing the landing of the King at Calais, is the one above-mentioned in the library at Tixall. The painter, who had obtained permission to sail in the royal yacht, has chosen the moment when the vessel being laid alongside of the pier, the King came upon deck to receive the homage of his people previous to his going on shore. In the centre is seated, the King, his countenance beaming with sensibility and benevolence; before him stands a group of twelve young ladies, of the principal families of Calais, all dressed in white satin, with lilies in their hands. One of them kneeling, presents him with a lily, which his majesty, bending forward, accepts with complacency. On the king's left hand is seated the Duchess of Angouleme, in whose features are displayed the various emotions which must have agitated her mind, on that momentous occasion. At her left, stands Talleyrand Perigord, the venerable Ex-Archbishop of Rheims, (1) uncle to the Ex-Bishop of Autun, so celebrated for his political talents. Behind the

(1) Lately created a Cardinal, and Archbishop of Paris.

chair of the princess appears the aged Dutchess of Serent, her lady in waiting, who lost her two only sons in the disastrous expedition at Quiberon. By her side stands Sir John Beresford, commander of the royal yacht. Behind the king are stationed the Duc de Duras, his lord in waiting, and the Comte de Blacas. The good old Prince of Condé leans on the king's chair, and before him is placed his son, the Duc de Bourbon, who by the atrocious assassination of his only son the Duc d'Enghien, is now the last of his illustrious race. The left side of the picture is occupied by a group of illustrious personages, who had followed the fortunes of the royal family of France during their exile; the Countesses of Choiseul and Damas, the Dukes of Gramont and Havré, the Vicomte d'Agoult, the Marquis d'Avaray, etc. Behind these are seen the Earl of Buckinghamshire and Lord Cawdor. On the right, near the group of French ladies mentioned above, are the Mayor of Calais, the Prefect of the Department, Lord Sidmouth, and the Officers belonging to the yacht. Above, in the center of the picture, a crew of French sailors in the rigging, forgetful of the danger of their situation, bend over with eagerness to behold their sovereign, and appear to hang in air. The pier of Calais forms the back ground, where crowds of French natives are seen, some waving hats and handkerchiefs, others with flags, on which are inscribed "Vive Louis XVIII. vivent les Bourbons;" all making extatic gestures, and appearing frantic with joy. Among these is placed the owner of the picture, who had the happiness of beholding this interesting scene, and can bear testimony to the fidelity of the representation.

On the right of the hall is a dining-room, 56 feet by 24, and like the hall and library, 16 feet 6 inches high. In this room, there is a family picture of uncommon size, which contains eleven figures as large as life, and represents Walter, the fourth Lord Aston, with the Lady Mary Howard, his wife, their chil-

dren and attendants. There is also a full length portrait of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, in his parliamentary robes, with the Earl Marshal's staff in his hand. These two pieces were painted by Peter Van Bleeck, a Dutchman, " who came into England," says Walpole, " in 1723, and died in 1764. He was reckoned a good painter of portraits." These paintings justify the character which Lord Orford has given him. Corresponding with the portrait of the Duke of Norfolk, is one of Catherine Gage, daughter of Sir Thomas Gage, Bart. and second wife of the third Lord Aston. Above the doors, are two heads, one by Vandyck, the other by Corn. Janssen. Besides these, are two large historical paintings by Casali ; one of which represents the assassination of King Edward the Martyr, at the gate of Corfe-castle : the subject of the other is a story told in Baker's Chronicle, of Gunhilda, Empress of Germany, and daughter of Canute the Great. This last piece obtained the prize offered in 1760, by the society for the encouragment of aris, for the best historical painting. The two were purchased by Alderman Beckford, for 1,000 guineas, and decorated his residence at Fonthill, till within these few years, when the pictures and furniture of that princely mansion were sold by auction.

Over these three rooms on the ground floor, are two excellent bed-chambers, and dressing-rooms, and in the center a pleasant drawing-room, in which is a valuable portrait, by Holbein, of Cromwell, Earl of Essex, the friend and patron of Sir R. Sadler, of which an engraving is prefixed to the first volume of his State Papers. The center window opens into a spacious balcony, supported by the portico, which commands an extensive and delightful prospect of the surrounding scenery. The whole of the new house is well connected with the old quadrangle, and there are some other good rooms in it, besides a neat, luminous, modern chapel. In the gallery, which connects the old and new part of the house to-

gether, there are many family portraits and other paintings. Among them is a portrait of Mary Queen of Scots, once the property of Sir Ralph Sadler, and probably procured by him, while she was under his custody in Tutbury-castle.

The painter's skill what words can duly praise ?
 Whose art presents to our enraptured gaze,
 The very features, lineaments, and face,
 Which with fresh transport we delight to trace.
 Hail art divine ! to thee Affection owes
 The sweetest sympathies which life bestows :
 Thy labours immortality can give ;
 In thy expressive colouring still live
 Consigned by thee to every future age,
 The hero, beauty, patriot, and sage.
 Triumphant o'er the grave thy power extends,
 And envious Time to thee assistance lends.

A. C.

The view from the portico at Tixall is one of the most pleasing in the county. It is what the painters properly term, “a whole ; a fore-ground, a middle, and a distance.” (1) The fore-ground is one continued lawn of the finest verdure, gently sloping from the house to the banks of the canal : which here appears like a noble river meandering through the valley. On the right, the prospect is almost wholly intercepted by the venerable gatehouse : the eastern end of which is completely covered with a mantle of the most luxuriant ivy. The deep, and glossy green of its foliage, flourishing in health and vigour, forms a striking contrast to the pale grey, time-worn, and weather-beaten colour of the building ;

(1) Gilpin, “*Observ. on Forest Scenery.*” Part. 3, ch. 5.

while its wandering ramifications seem eager to twine their graceful tendrils round the mossy pinnacles of the towers. Behind the gatehouse is a plantation, intended as a screen to hide the parsonage-house from the eye : which object is effectually obtained, although it does not entirely conceal the neat little spire of the village church ; which glittering among the trees, has a pleasing effect. On the left of the house, are some large umbrageous trees, stretching their “extravagant arms” towards the eastern approach ; beyond which, is seen the village of Great Haywood, embosomed in trees, and the rising grounds above it, pleasantly variegated with corn fields, and pastures, hedge-rows, cottages, and farms. Descending from these heights, the eye reposes with pleasure on the glassy surface of the canal, which, in this part, sweeps into a broad expanse of water, resembling a lake. Its further bank is enriched, and decorated, by the blooming groves, and architectural ornaments of Shugborough, the seat of Lord Anson : beyond which, the eye is carried down the “long-withdrawing vale,” bounded by the lofty-swellings hills, and tufted woods of Oakedge, and by the bold, protuberant masses of Wolseley Park ; whose sides are scattered over with aged oaks, and their summits crowned with hardy pine. Exactly in front of the house, is the triumphal arch, dedicated to the memory of the first Lord Anson. It stands on a verdant knoll, backed by a considerable breadth of brown and purple heath. On one side of it, are the oaks of Haywood Park, and the cultivated grounds of Shugborough farm, stretching up the hills ; on the other, is an extensive wood of beech overhanging the river Sow, through which is the western approach to Shugborough house. The whole of the smiling landskape below, is charmingly contrasted, and terminated both beyond, and above the wood, by the brown heathy distances of Cannock Chace, whose elevated ridges, surmounted

by irregular clumps of sirs, high-waving in the blast, mingle the wild horizon with the sky.

Nor is this various scenery destitute of life and animation. The moving groups of cattle, horses, and sheep, slowly wandering over the pastures; the partridge, hare, and pheasant, flitting across the dusky lawn; the milk-white swan, sailing majestically on the bosom of the canal; the long, heavy barge, with its towing horse, and attendant driver, seen gliding through the trees; all conspire in their turn, to give life, variety, and interest to the soft and tranquil scene.

There is something, uncommonly gratifying, both to the eye and the imagination, in the mingled assemblage of buildings at Tixall, with their various architecture, ancient and modern, Gothic and Grecian, and in the strikingly contrasted-appearance of an elegant modern mansion, closely adjoining to an ivy-mantled ruin. All that remains of the ancient seat of the Astons is this ruin, and the gatehouse, which are near each other, and only a few paces to the west of the present mansion.

The gatehouse was built by Sir Walter Aston, (1) about the year 1580, just at the period, when the architecture of Greece and Rome, had begun to be fashionable in England. Our ancestors, with that love of novelty which is common to every age, seem to have been eager to disfigure their old baronial mansions, of which perhaps they were ashamed, by tacking to them porches, columns, and other incongruous decorations in the new taste. Sir Walter Aston, however, did not alter the noble residence which his father had built; but he eclipsed, or (to use the expression of Erdeswick) *defaced* it, by erecting the gatehouse immediately in front, with a wall, reaching from each end of it, to the two

(1) Grandfather of the friend and patron of Drayton.

corners of the old house ; thus forming an inclosed court between the gatehouse and the mansion. (1)

The gatehouse has three stories, and had a flat roof, covered with lead, protected on each side by an open balustrade. At each of the four corners, is an octagon tower, ending in a dome of an elegant form, tapering to a point, and surmounted by a gilt vane. The point of the tower is about sixty feet from the ground. The main building is fifty feet long, and twenty-five broad : the interior diameter of the towers is eight feet. The centre of the building, on the ground floor, was an open archway, through which carriages passed to the great hall door ; and on either side were lodges for the porters. The two upper stories were divided into apartments for servants, to which access was obtained by a stone staircase in one of the towers. The windows are large in the old fashion ; and on each side of every window, is a coupled column ; on the ground floor of the Doric order, supporting a Doric frieze ; on the second story, of the Ionic, and on the third, of the Corinthian.

The old mansion, now a ruin, was built by Sir Edward Aston, in 1555, about fifty years after the Tixall estate had come to his family—" This is plain," says Mr. Loxdale, (2) " from the following words cut extremely well in the lower part of a stool of one of the windows, and still very fresh. *William Yates made this house MDLV.*" The remains show it to have been built in the elegant style of Gothic architecture which prevailed in the reign of Henry VII. These remains are principally the south bow

(1) A view of it in its complete state may be seen in Plot's " History of Staffordshire."

(2) Paroch. Antiq. of Staff. penes March. de Buckingham.

window of the great drawing-room, richly decorated on the outside, with roses, lozenges, (1) and other Gothic ornaments.

The internal decoration of this drawing room was very singular : the lower part of the walls being wainscotted, while the upper part exhibited the naked stone, tastefully adorned with sculptured panels, with the heraldic shields of the founders, and the initial letters of their names, all of stone, and rising in low relief from the sides of the room. Here in particular, are the arms of Sir Edward Aston, impaling those of Bolles, with the motto *Laus Deo :* and opposite, the Aston arms impaling Sadler ; which must have been added more than fifty years after the former. The east window is a kind of *oriel*, and the ceiling is elegantly ornamented with various emblematic devices, and the heraldic coats of four of the principal families, to whom the Astons were allied ; viz. Montfort, Freville, Byron, and Walsh. In the centre, is a Buffalo's head, on a wreath, which was the ancient family crest ; and in other interstices, are represented barrels, or *tons* ; which, from the circumstance of their being placed in the *east* window, were probably meant as an allusion to the derivation of the family name: Aston, or E-ton, from East-town. All these embellishments are beautifully executed.

The walls of two smaller rooms are likewise still standing, but they have now no roof but the thick branches of the ivy, and no floor but its fallen leaves. Nothing can be more delightful, than to contemplate in the different seasons of the year, or at different times of the day, the mingled effects of light and shade among these dilapidated, ivied walls. But above all, on a clear, moonlight night, when all around is still; and when the recollections and emotions, which such a scene is calculated to excite, are

(1) One of the armorial bearings of Aston.

awakened, and exalted by the solemn, congenial serenity of the nocturnal heavens—it is then that fancy and feeling will exert their influence, and take full possession of the mind and heart.

Such emotions, such recollections, I have endeavoured to express in the following poem.

A

*MIDNIGHT MEDITATION*AMONG THE
R U I N S A T T I X A L L.

How sweetly on that mouldering tower,
How sweetly on that ivy-bower,
Whose branches through the ruins creep
The melancholy moon-beams sleep !
Bright Queen of Heaven ! thy solemn light
Softly sooths my wakeful sight,
To milder feelings tunes my breast,
And lulls my throbbing heart to rest.

What deep-felt charms these Walls disclose !
While all around in dead repose,
Ou earth, in air, unheard, unseen,
To contemplation leave the scene.
So still the air—the balmy breeze
Scarce whispers through these aged trees ;
So smooth yon limpid lake—it shows
Each star that in the blue vault glows.
A sacred calm pervades the whole,
A soft enchantment rules my soul.
What magic spell enchains my feet ?
Why seem these midnight scenes so sweet !

Ye visions of my infant years !
 Though dimly seen through sorrow's tears,
 'Tis your entrancing thought supplies
 The long-lost images that rise,
 Which fix my lingering steps, and still
 A sadly-pleasing joy instil.
 'Twas here—alas ! a weary round
 Through rugged, rough, and thorny ground,
 My way-worn pilgrim feet have trod,—
 Since first they prest this mossy sod—
 'Twas here—a playful prattling child,
 When Life and Nature round me smiled,
 With loved companions—now no more !
 The frolic group one mother bore—
 From morn to eve, in rival toil,
 With fragrant flowers we deckt the soil ;
 Or pigmy castles raised around,
 Till all appeared like fairy ground.
 And sure, we simply thought the while
 The old majestic Gothic pile,
 Compared with ours, was babies' play,
 The work and labour of a day.
 The good old nurse prolonged the cheat,
 And dear mamma, with kisses sweet,
 And fond impartial smiles surveyed
 The efforts of each tiny spade.
 Where Hope allured, or Fancy led,
 Eager in keen pursuit we fled ;
 And was the promised pleasure crost,
 Straight in new joys the grief was lost.
 So flew the laughing hours away,
 So rose and set each blissful day.
 Though vanished—as they ne'er had been—
 The actors both, and flowery scene,

To sad remembrance ever dear,
They claim a sigh, a tender tear.

Hush!—hark!—from you sepulchral stone
Methought I heard a hollow groan—
It chills my blood—so deep it came—
What horrors seize my shuddering frame!
Hark—once again—’tis idle fear—
The place and hour such fancies rear.
It was the owl within the bower,
The lonely tenant of the tower,
Molested in his dark retreat—
Perhaps the echoes of my feet.

How vain are all the schemes of man!
How frail his wisest, best-laid plan!
Not man alone—his works decay—
His towers and temples—pass away.
Behold those moss-grown ivied walls,
Through which the glimmering moonlight falls;
Where screeching owls, and birds obscene,
And crawling vermin creep between—
These once with gorgeous hangings drest,
The blazoned shield and towering crest;
Where conquerors with laurel crowned,
And patriots from the canvas frowned,
Or beauteous dames alternate smiled,
For whom those heroes fought and toiled—
See—o'er their tops the wild ash grows,
And each rank weed luxuriant blows. .
The swallow undisturbed hath hung
Her nest on roofs which erst have rung
With sound of harp and minstrelsy,
Of pageants, pomp, and revelry,

When at the high-born lady's call,
 The feast and dance in bannered hall,
 At winter-evening's welcome close
 To ancient warlike music rose.
 No more the mirth-inspiring song
 Echoes the lofty hall along ;
 No more to sprightly notes of pleasure
 Swims the light dance in graceful measure.
 The festal spot can scarce be found,
 While shattered arches strewed around,
 And broken colums piled on high,
 Confused with crumbling turrets lie.
 Of sportive crowds the gay resort
 Is now a lonely grass-grown court,
 Where, on each side, the time-struck wall
 Tottering threatens a final fall.
 The founders' deeply graven name,
 Which fondly hoped a lasting fame
 In love-kuots carved on many a stone,
 With noxious plants is overgrown ;
 The curious eye can hardly trace
 Its proudly once distinguished place.
 Perchance, where yonder casement gleams,
 Just chequered by the moon's pale beams,
 As waving through the lattice, twine
 The mountain-ash and eglantine—
 Some love-sick maid, at such an hour,
 Sleepless within the silent tower ;
 Rapt in lost scenes of past delight,
 Or fancied visions of the night,
 Gazing has stood with tearful eye,
 While Love has breathed his softest sigh.
 Hard by this dismal dreary room,
 Where darkness spreads a deathlike gloom,

And the foul lurking adder breeds
 Midst sculptured fragments choaked with weeds ;
 Where solitude and silence reign,
 And desolation leads her train :
 Here, on this damp-encumbered floor,
 Once stood the hospitable Door,
 To want and pining misery dear,
 And loved by all the country near ;
 When, as successive ages rolled,
 The steel-clad knight, or baron bold,
 In arms, and well-fought fields grown gray,
 Here calmly closed life's parting day.
 For heroes here their eyes have closed,
 And statesmen from their toils reposed ;
 And sages, won by Natur's charms,
 Have wooed her to their longing arms ;
 And poets here have struck the lyre,
 And caught the soul-inflaming fire,
 Which, as it thrilled their nerves along,
 And woke the hidden powers of song,
 To distant times again address,
 Shall raise the mind, and warm the breast.

Now sinks the fading orb of night ;
 The stars withdraw their twinkling light ;
 And seem in Fancy's ear to say,
 We too are fated to decay.

O thou ! Almighty Power Supreme !
 Whose bounty gives this nightly beam ;
 Who pourest on the wondering soul
 This dazzling blaze from pole to pole ;
 Though hid from my imploring eye,
 Thy works declare thee ever nigh.

O teach me clearly to conceive,
O teach me firmly to believe,
That from this wreck of mortal things,
To which our sense so fondly clings—
That from this dark bewildered state,
Entangled in the maze of fate,—
A fair harmonious Scene shall rise—
When, opened to our anxious eyes,
Cleared from all mist of doubt and fear,
Thy perfect Justice shall appear.
Guide me through Life's perplexing way,
Cheer me with Hope's auspicious ray :
May simple joys my cares beguile,
May love and friendship on me smile ;
Till my rapt soul from earth set free,
Shall seek eternal rest in Thee !

A. C.

N O T E S.

(A)

THIS Earl Roger, to whom a part of Tixall was given by the Conqueror, was *Roger de Monte Gomerico*, or De Montgomery, in Normandy. He was descended from Weva, sister to Gunnora, Duchess of Normandy, and great grandmother to the Conqueror. Being one of the greatest men in that duchy, he accompanied his kinsman, Duke William, into England, and led the main body of his army at the memorable battle of Hastings, which secured to that victorious hero the throne of this realm. In recompence of his services, he was created Earl of Chichester and Arundel, and afterwards Earl of Shrewsbury. To these titles and honours were added vast possessions and estates; in Wiltshire 5 lordships, Surrey 4, Hants 9, Middl. 8, Cambr. 11, Herts 2, Glouc. 1, Worc. 2, Warw. 11, Staff. 50, Sussex 67; in all, 158 manors or lordships, besides the city of Chichester, and city of Shrewsbury, where he built a castle, and almost the whole of Shropshire.

He afterwards obtained from the Conqueror, together with Rob. Fitz-Hamon, and some other knights, a grant of whatever they could obtain by force of arms from the Welsh. Upon which, he entered the province of Powisland in Wales, and won the castle and town of Baldwin; fortified it, and called it Montgomery after his own name, which it has retained to this day.

In this expedition, he also took possession of Cardigan, and did homage for it to the king.—(Dugd. Bar. vol. 1. p. 26.)

Earl Roger was twice married; first, to Mabel, daughter and heiress of William Talyace de Belesme, a great Norman baron, with whom he had a large inheritance at Belesme, and elsewhere in Normandy. She brought him five sons and four daughters :

1. Robert de Belesme, who succeeded his father in Normandy.

2. Hugo de Montgomery, who was heir to his English estates.

3. Roger of Poitou, Earl of Lancaster.

4. Philip, who applied to literature, and became a priest.

5. Arnulph, who having no inheritance, betook himself to feats of arms, and conquered Pembrokeshire, where he built and fortified the castle of Pembroke, of which place he was made earl by William the Conqueror.

Of his daughters :

1. Emma, became an abbess.

2. Maud, was married to Robert, Earl of Moreton, half brother to the Conqueror.

3. Mabel, to Hugh, de Novo Castello.

4. Sibil, to Rob. Fitz-Hamon, Lord of Corbeil, in Normandy.

—(Dug. ibid. p. 27.)

The second wife of Earl Roger, was Adelina de Pusaie; by whom he had one son, Ebrard, who became a priest, and was domestic chaplain to Henry I.

“ On the first voyage of this lady, his second wife, out of Normandy into England, there happened so great a storm at sea, that nothing but shipwreck was expected by the mariners; a certain priest, who was her chaplain, being much wearied with long watching, fell very fast asleep; when there appeared to him a comely matron, who said thus:—‘ If your lady would be pre-

served from the danger of this dreadful tempest, let her vow to God, that she will build a church to the honour of St. Mary Magdalén, in the place where she shall first meet the earl her husband, in England, and especially, where a hollow oak groweth near a hogsty.' When he awoke, he told all this to his lady, who soon made her vow accordingly ; whereupon the tempest ceased, and she, with her attendants, came safe to shore. After a journey of several days towards her husband, she met him hunting, at a place where such an oak then grew ; and relating to him, what had happened, moved him to fulfil her vow. He forthwith assenting, caused a church to be built, and endowed it with ample possessions."—(Ibid.)

Earl Roger was a man of extraordinary piety and devotion ; and founded and endowed several religious houses both in England and Normandy. Some time before his death, bidding adieu to all worldly honours and distinctions, this great and powerful baron retired into the abbey of Shrewsbury, which he himself had founded ; where, being shorn a monk, and putting on the habit of the severe order of Cluni, he spent the remainder of his days in the rigorous and humiliating practices of monastic devotion ; and died there in sentiments of fervent piety in the year 1094.

" The character, which Order. Vitalis gives of Earl Roger, is, that he was a very prudent and moderate man ; a great lover of equity, and of discreet and modest persons : and that he had three clergymen about him, by whose counsels he was always prosperously guided. He gave the governorship of Shrewsbury to Warine the Bald, who had married his niece ; a man of small stature, but great spirit ; by whose valour, and skilful conduct, he kept the Welsh in awe, and that whole province in peace. Besides his two sons, Robert and Roger, who took a share in all his enterprises, he had several persons under him of known wis-

dom and courage ; by whom being freely assisted, he was as glorious among the greatest nobles, as any of them all."—(Ibid.)

Hugh de Montgomery, second son of Earl Roger, was probably the Hugo mentioned in Domesday-book, as holding a part of Tixall, under Rob. de Statford. Having engaged in conspiring, with Rob. de Mowbray, and others, in the murder of W. Rufus ; he was discovered, and obliged to pay 5,000*l.* to obtain his pardon. He afterwards marched into Wales, where he exercised the most savage and horrible cruelties upon the inhabitants : but being called to the sea-coast, to prevent the descent of the Norwegians, under their king Magnus, he was slain by an arrow from one of their vessels. *Giraldus Cambr.* in his "Description of Anglesey," gives the following extraordinary account of his death : "There is, in this isle, a church of St. Teuredaucus the Confessor ; in which, Earl Hugh (after he had subjugated these parts of Wales) having kenned his dogs all night, found them every one mad next morning : and he himself died a miserable death, within a month after. For hearing that certain pirates were come to the haven of this island, he hastened to oppose their landing : when the principal commander of them, called Magnus, standing at the fore-end of the boat, with a bow in his hand, let flie an arrow at our earl, then armed cap-a-pee, so that no entrance could be made, except through his helmet, at the sights of his eyes : but so fatally was that arrow directed, that it passed through his head-piece upon his right eye, and piercing his brain, caused him to fall headlong into the sea."

His dead body was carried to the abbey of Shrewsbury, and there buried in the cloysters with great lamentations.

His lands devolved to his elder brother, Rob. de Belesme ; who, on paying a fine of 5,000*l.* to the king, was put in possession of his inheritance, and made Earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury.

Rob. de Belesme had been girt with the sword of knighthood,

by William the Conqueror, for his bravery in Normandy, and grew into such esteem with that great monarch, that he conferred much honor upon him ; so that he excelled most of the nobility of Normandy in glory, having very great possessions there, and many strong castles. Nevertheless, no sooner was the Conqueror dead, but his turbulent and restless disposition began to show itself. He joined the party of Robert Curthose, against William Rufus, and Henry I. and never ceased, for fifteen years, to do them all the mischief he could, disturbing them on every occasion, and seducing others to do the like. The character given of him is most odious. He is said to have been a very subtle, crafty, and deceitful man ; big of body, strong, and bold ; powerful in arms, and eloquent ; but exceedingly cruel, covetous, and libidinous. A person of great insight in serious affairs, and unwearied in his managing of worldly business ; likewise a most ingenious architect ; but for inflicting of torments a most inexorable butcher : no friend at all to the church, but a vile and wretched oppressor. For his wickedness, he was excommunicated, and all his lands interdicted ; so that no burial could be had therein : yet was he nothing reformed by any of these means. In brief, there can be no higher expressions of the most barbarous and cruel tyrant that ever was, than of him ; his severity being exercised not only to strangers, but even to friends and familiars ; glorying, and making his boast among his parasites, of his unparalleled inhumanities."

Having broken into open rebellion against Henry I. he fortified all his castles in England, and began to build a new one in Wales, where it is said he introduced a *famous race of Spanish horses*. However the king soon got the better of him, and reduced him to such a desperate condition, that he was obliged to implore his clemency. Acknowledging his crime of treason, he offered the king the keys of the town of Shrewsbury ; which he graciously

accepted, suffering him to have safe conduct with horse and arms to the sea coast: but stripped him of all his honours, and seized on the possessions of those who had adhered to him in his rebellion. His banishment gave the most general joy to the whole kingdom, that they were thus rid of so great a tyrant, and such a savage oppressor: for he was so stupendously cruel, that he rather chose to inflict miserable torments on poor captives, than receive even a great sum for their redemption.

Being banished from England, there was little respect shown to him in Normandy, scarce any one there abiding him; yet his wealth, which he had treasured up in *thirty-four strong castles*, formerly built for his rebellious purposes, supported him sufficiently: of which, though besides this, he did solely possess all his father's great inheritance in those parts, yet such was his inhumanity, he would afford his brothers no share at all; notwithstanding their distresses arose entirely from his misconduct. His brothers having forsaken him, he durst not confide in any one; and having been so terrible to others, could not trust those of his own party: yet such was his proneness to evil, that he forbore not to lay hold on any occasion to act mischief. He now attacked Robert Curthose, whom he had formerly supported, and completely routed him; with which success he was so elated, that scorning the duke, he aimed at no less than the subjugating all Normandy to his own power, and in effect accomplished it: for the people having no head to flee to, were necessitated to submit to him. Duke Robert was obliged to make peace with him; but his brother King Henry, coming over from England with a powerful army, obtained an absolute victory, and took him prisoner: when considering that no favour could win him, nor oath or promise bind him, he summoned him before a court of justice, by judgment of which he was committed to close imprisonment; and being brought over to England, lingered out the wretched remnant of his days in a prison at Wareham, in Dorsetshire.

Henry de Huntendon, one of our ancient historians, in that excellent epistle of his “*De contemptu mundi*,” written to a friend in the reign of Henry II. has given the following account of Rob. de Belesme :—“ Thou hast seeu Rob. de Belesme, a prince in Normandy cast into prison. He was a Pluto, Megera, Cerberus, or whatever else can be expressed that is most horrid. He would not permit poor captives to be redeemed, but murther them ; and under pretence of playing with his own little godson, he thrust out his eyes with his thumbs. He used to thrust sharp stakes through the bodies of men and women, and the greatest slaughter of people was his chief delight : so that it was commonly said of him as in a proverb, ‘ The wonders of Rob. de Belesme.’ But let us come to his end, a thing most desirable : he who had so tortured others with imprisonment, was himself cast into prison, and there long tormented till his death ; which he so much endeavoured to effect by hunger, that it was scarce discernable whether he were living or dead ; and being speechless, could not express the sense he had of death.”

This once mighty earl married Agnes, daughter of Guy, Earl of Ponthieu, whom he used most barbarously, keeping her a long time prisoner in his castle at Belesme ; till by means of a servant, she made her escape, and fled to the Countess of Chartres, never returning to her cruel husband.

Roger, third son of the Earl of Montgomery, surnamed of Poitou, because he married a lady of that country, had nothing at all of his father’s inheritance, but being a military man, was advanced to the title of an earl, and lived for a time in great wealth and power : having the earldom of Lancaster, *and all that part of Lancashire which lies between the Ribble and the Mersey* ; with oþer great possessions, in that, and other counties, of the Conqueror’s gift.

Indeed, the wonderful extent of territory granted by King

William to this family, almost exceeds belief. For besides the vast estates, already enumerated, which were given to the Earl of Montgomery, his third son Roger, had, besides the lands in Lancashire, just mentioned, as much more in that county, as made up the number of 188 manors ; also, in Yorksh. 76, Essex 5, Suff. 59, Notts 11, Derb. 7, Norf. 10, and 44 in Lincolnshire.

But they were all in a few years brought to entire ruin, and in England utterly extirpated ! For the outrageous and atrocious misconduct of Rob. de Belesme so heightened King Henry's displeasure and anger against him, that he could not endure any of his relations ; but caused his brothers, Roger de Poitou, and Arnulph, who were both wealthy earls, to be driven out of the kingdom ; and the whole family became so odious to him, that he even took away the lands, which their father Roger de Montgomery had bestowed on the convent of which their sister Emma was abbess, and gave them to one of his soldiers ! !—(Dugd. Bar. vol. 1. p. 28, 29, 30.)

(B) STAFFORD.

The other proprietor of Tixall, mentioned in Domesday-book, was Robert de Statford, or Stafford; so called from his residence at Stafford-castle. His original name was Rob. de Toeni; and he was son of Roger de Toeni, standard-bearer of Normandy: who was descended from Malahulcius, uncle to the famous Rollo, Duke of Normandy, and progenitor of William the Conqueror.—(Dug. ib. p. 156.)

At the time of the general survey, Rob. de Stafford was possessed of two lordships in Suff. Worc. 1, Northampt. 1, Linc. 20, Warw. 26, Staff. 81, in all 150.

He had a brother, called Nigel, who possessed Drakelow, and eleven lordships in Derbyshire. Sir *Nigel Gresley*, his descendant, is in possession of Drakelow, at this day.

Rob. de Stafford's grandson, of the same name, had a son, who died without issue; and a daughter, called Milisent, who was heiress to his honours and estates, and married (1194) Hervey Bagot, a gentleman of an ancient family: who, on paying a fine of 500 marks to the king, had livery of the barony of Stafford, and bore the title of Lord Stafford.(1)

Edmund de Stafford, his descendant, was summoned to parliament among the barons of England, by Edward I.

Ralph, his son and heir, was one of the founders of the Most

(1) They were put to such a streight to raise this fine, that they were obliged to sell the lordship of Drayton, to the canons of St. Thomas, near Stafford.

Noble Order of the Garter. He commanded in the van of the army, at the ever glorious battle of Cressy ; and was raised by Edward III. to the dignity of Earl of Stafford. He gave a piece of land, near the bridge at Stafford, to found a church and convent of Austin Friars : which continued till the great dissolution of monasteries, by Hen. VIII. at which time, the splendid tombs, and other monuments of this illustrious family were broken and destroyed.

Edmund, Earl Stafford, his grandson, who was slain, with Hotspur, at the battle of Shrewsbury, 1403, formed a most illustrious alliance for his family : having married Anne, daughter of Thomas of Woodstock, youngest son of Edw. III. which lady was also, finally, sole heir of her mother Eleanor, daughter and coheir of Humphrey de Bohun, the great Earl of Hereford ; and accordingly, after her mother's death, she obtained her share of that vast inheritance.

Humphrey, Earl of Stafford, their son, was created Duke of Buckingham, by Henry VI. and had precedence of all the peers of the realm, after the blood royal. He was killed at the battle of Northampton as his son had been, five years before, at the battle of St. Albans.

Henry, Duke of Buckingham, his grandson, was the favourite of Richard III. but entering into rebellion against him, he was taken and beheaded, in the first year of his reign. (1)

Off with his head—so much for Buckingham !

The family of Stafford, which had thus risen to such an exalted

(1) When Banaster, his servant, who betrayed him, applied to King Richard for the reward of 1,000*l.* which had been promised to any one who would discover where the duke was hid, the king refused to give him any thing at all, saying, “ that he who could be untrue to so good a master, would be false to all others.”—(Dugd. from Stow and Holingsh.)

pitch of opulence and honour, was now on the brink of extinction and ruin. But Edward, Duke of Buckingham, son of the last Duke, was restored to all his estates and honors, by Henry VII. in whose service his father had lost his life. At the beginning of Henry VIIIth's reign, he was also in great favour with that king, and was certainly the first subject then in the realm. He received the first writ, of all the peers, to Henry's first parliament : and it was addressed to "Our most dear cousin, Edward Stafford." But his own indiscretion, in frequently talking of his right to the throne, in case of Henry's death ; and the malice and revenge of Cardinal Wolsey, whom he had offended, brought him to destruction. Like his father, he was betrayed by one of his own servants ; a steward, or surveyor, whom he had discharged for extortion, and other oppressive acts. The cardinal took this man into his own service, in order to facilitate the duke's ruin ; and never omitted any opportunity of hinting to the king strange surmises of the duke's unfaithfulness and disaffection to his majesty. The first quarrel between the duke and cardinal, arose out of the famous interview between Francis I. and Henry, in France, in the field, called the " Field of Gold Cloth," where the Duke of Buckingham displayed a magnificence little inferior to that the two kings ; but afterwards complained very much of the extravagance of the expence, and laid the blame of the whole upon the cardinal. Soon after, another incident happened, which contributed not a little to increase the cardinal's hatred against him. The duke, according to his place, holding the silver bason for the king to wash his hands, Henry had no sooner done, than Wolsey dipped his fingers into the water ; but the duke disdaining to hold the bason for a man of such mean extraction, though then a cardinal, spilt some of the water in his shoes. This the cardinal highly resented, and said, " He would sit on his skirts for it." Next day the duke appeared at court without any skirts to

his doublet, and being asked the reason by the king, replied, it was to prevent the cardinal from sitting down upon them. Wolsey pursued his machinations against him, and aggravating every report in prejudice of the duke to its greatest height, the king at last declared, " That if the duke deserved punishment it should be inflicted on him accordingly." He was presently taken into custody, and committed to the Tower ; and a bill of high treason being found against him, he was solemnly tried by his peers in Westmiuster-hall. The Duke of Norfolk, who had married his daughter, sat as President, and having pronounced sentence of death upon him with tears in his eyes ; the unhappy duke replied, " My Lord of Norfolk, you have spoken as a traitor should be spoke to, but I never was one ; but my lords, I do not reproach you for what you have done ; may the eternal God forgive you my death, as I do : I'll never sue to the king for my life, though he is a gracious prince, and may shew more mercy than I desire. I desire you my lords, and all my fellow-subjects, to pray for me." The edge of the axe being then turned towards the duke, he was conducted towards the barge, in order to be carried back to the Tower, when Sir Thos. Lovel, desiring him to sit on the cushion and carpet provided for him, he said, " No, for when I went to Westminster I was Duke of Buckingham, but I am now Edward Bohun only, the most caitiff of the world." It seems he affected the surname of Bohun before that of Stafford, being descended from the great family of the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford. As he was conveyed through the city, being landed at the Temple, most of the people seemed to pity him, while others cried out, " This is the end of a bad life, God forgive him, he was a proud prince ; 'tis pity he behaved himself so undutifully to his liege lord, whom God preserve." It is supposed that if he had condescended to petition the king, his life would have been spared ; but all the favour that was shown him, was a message from the king, declaring that his sen-



SIR WILLIAM HOWARD K.B.
VISCOUNT STAFFORD.

From a Miniature in the Possession of E. JERNINGHAM Esq

tence was mitigated so far, that instead of receiving the death of a traitor, his head should be cut off; and after his execution, Henry caused a consolatory letter to be written to his duchess, and to his son Lord Stafford.

His hard fate was much lamented both at home and abroad; and when the Emperor Charles V. heard of it, alluding to Wolsey's extraction, who was supposed to be the son of a butcher, he said, "A butcher's dog has worried to death the finest buck in England."

He was the last hereditary lord high constable, which dignity came to him from the Earls of Hereford; and being thus forfeited, was never after restored in this kingdom.

His son, thus eclipsed, and "shorn of his beams," bore the title of Baron Stafford; and obtained, some years after, a grant of the castle and manor of Stafford, with some other of his father's lands.

This Lord Stafford's great grandson, had a son, who died unmarried, and a daughter, who inherited the honors and estates of the family.

She married Sir William Howard, (third son of Thomas, Earl of Arundel, the discoverer of the Arundelian marbles,) who, in 1646, was created Baron, and afterwards Viscount Stafford: and she was made Baroness Stafford in her own right.

But the misfortunes of this family were not yet complete. In 1680, Lord Stafford was impeached by the House of Commons, for being concerned in Oates's plot; and by a most unjust sentence, was pronounced guilty of high treason, and brought to the scaffold. Hume, in his History of England, (vol. 8. p. 140,) has given a very eloquent and pathetic account of his trial and execution, to which I refer the reader. The principal evidence against him, was that of Dugdale, who had been steward to Lord Aston,

and was discharged from his service for misconduct. This man gave testimony, that Lord Stafford, when on a visit at Tixall, had endeavoured to engage him in the design of murdering the king ; and that he had also assisted at a great consultation of Catholics, held at Tixall, for the same purpose. It appears, that Lord Aston was, with some other Catholic lords, imprisoned in the tower ; but Lord Stafford was selected to be the victim of popular phrenzy, and the rage of party.

“ This is the last blood,” says Hume, “ which was shed on account of the popish plot : an incident, which for the credit of the nation, it were better to bury in eternal oblivion, but which it is necessary to perpetuate, as well to maintain the truth of history, as to warn, if possible, their posterity, and all mankind, never again to fall into so shameful, so barbarous a delusion.”

The following verses on the trial and death of Lord Viscount Stafford, are selected from a scarce poetical miscellany, entitled “ A Collection of Loyal Poems, all of them written upon the two late Plots, viz. : The horrid Salamanca Plot, in 1678, and the present Fanatical Conspiracy, in 1685 ; to which is added, Advice to the Carver, written on the death of the late Lord Stafford. With several Poems on their Majesties’ Coronation, never before published. Collected by N. T. (Nath. Thompson,) 1685.”

As these lines were probably written by an eye-witness of the event, and possess, moreover, much intrinsic merit, I conceive they will not be unacceptable to the reader.

Stafford’s great name in old records did sleep,
And lay regardless ‘mongst the common heap,
With dust and rubbish almost covered o’er:
Thy *setting sun* its lustre does restore.
Whenever fair Astraea shows her face,
And slow-paced Truth shall faction’s rage displace,
It will be said of thy old Norfolk line,
“ Some with their blood are stained, and others shine.”

Next lead him from the prison to the bar,
 The place of combat, and the seat of war.
 Bring him through all the barbarous noise and shout
 Of an insulting and blood-thirsty rout ;
 Nearly allied in manners, cause, and cry,
 To that old Tribe that bellowed “ Crucify.”
 But these harsh sounds were music to his ear,
 Whose Christian heart knew neither *guilt*, nor fear.
 Now, in the circle of the theater,
 All England did epitomiz’d appear.
 Each in their several ranks themselves diffuse,
 The Peers to try, the Commons to accuse :
 Lawyers to plead, the witnesses to swear,
 People to gaze, Ladies to see and hear.
 But this assembly shall hereafter know,
 God and his angels were spectators too.
 With awful pomp here Justice seemed enthroned—
 The *sword* she bore, the *balance* was postponed.

As some East Indian Carrack, homeward bound,
 Of earth’s vast globe having gone all the round,
 Twice cut the Line, and with bold canvas run,
 Beyond the limits of its rival sun ;
 Making to its native port ;—the cheerful gale
 With joy each heart, with wind fills every sail :
 So does our Hero, now from storms releast,
 Move to the scaffold, as his place of rest.
 The scaffold steps did Jacob’s ladder seem,
 The scaffold was a monarch’s throne to him.
 For those who caused his death was his last prayer ;
 And his last words his innocence declare.
 Stafford, farewell : may thy pacific blood
 Of crimes and judgments stop the raging flood ;
 Our blindness cure, and by a holy charm,
 Of its dread thunder angry heaven disarm !

In 1685, Lord Stafford's attainder was reversed by the lords, but the bill was thrown out by the commons.

His eldest son Henry, was created Earl of Stafford, by James II. and his last male descendant was John-Paul-Stafford Howard, fourth earl ; who dying without issue, in 1762, his estates devolved to his sister Mary, wife of Francis Plowden, Esq. of Plowden, in Shropshire : whose daughter, Mary, married Sir George Jerningham, Bart. of Cossey in Norfolk, and carried the estates, and dormant honors of Stafford, into that ancient and respectable family (1)

(1) See Appendix, No. IV.

(C) FERRERS.

Ipse comes tenet Tichesale et Henricus Ferrieres de eo.

The earl himself holds Tichesale, and Henry Ferrieres holds of him.—(See Introd. p. 16.)

This Henry Ferrieres, or de Ferrariis, who took his name from the castle of Ferrieres, in Normandy, was one of the commissioners appointed by the Conqueror, to the high and mighty employment of making the general survey of England, recorded in Domesday-book ; from which it is evident he must have been a person of great knowledge and integrity.—(Dugd. ib. p. 257.—See Appendix No. I.)

Henry was son of Walcheline de Ferriers, a Norman ; and was a baron of great wealth and power ; for he possessed 20 lordships in Berks, Essex 5, Wilts 3, Oxf. 7, Warw. 6, Linc. 2, Bucks 2, Glouc. 1, Heref. 1, Hants 5, Notts. 3, Leic. 55, Derby 114, Staff. 7, besides the castle of Tutbury, where he resided. (1)

Near this place, he founded a monastery of Cluniae monks, and

(1) This castle, which is romantically situated on a rock of alabaster, overhanging the river Dove, was afterwards celebrated as the residence of the famous John of Gaunt ; and for the *Court of the Minstrels*, and the bull-running which he there instituted. It was also one of the many places to which the Queen of Scots has given celebrity by her imprisonments. She lived several years in Tutbury-castle, under the care of Sir Ralph Sadler, who treated her with the greatest respect, and kindest attention. (See his "State Papers," vol. 2.) She was a prisoner here at the time of the Duke of Norfolk's intrigues, and listened to his proposals, as the only means of obtaining her liberty. This incident is sweetly alluded to, by the delightfully descriptive poet of Needwood Forest :

amply endowed it with lands and revenues, his wife Berta having given a manor, and the whole town of Dubbridge to it before.

Henry de Ferrieres was succeeded by his son Robert, who was one of the witnesses to the laws made by King Stephen in the first year of his reign. Having brought up, and commanded the Derbyshire men, in that famous battle, (1158) called “of the Standard,” near North Allerton, where the Northern Barons obtained a glorious victory against David King of Scots; he was, for that service, advanced to the earldom of Derby.

Robert de Ferrers, his son and heir, succeeded him in 1159: who styled himself Comes de Ferraris, and de Nottingham. This Robert was a great benefactor to several religious houses, and in particular to the abbey of Merevale in Warwickshire, which he founded, and where his body was buried, being wrapt in an ox’s hide, according to his desire.

William de Ferrers, his son, (1) certified, on the levying the aid for the marriage of the king’s daughter, 12 Henry 2, that he held 79 knights’ fees; for which he paid 68 marks. (A knight’s fee was commonly from 600 to 800 acres. A mark, was 15s. 4d.) He confirmed, to the monks of Tutbury, all the grants which had been made to them by his father and grandfather: and having caused the body of Henry Ferrers, his ancestor, to be translated into the church of Tutbury, on the right hand of the high altar, he gave the monks an additional oxgang of land, on the day of the translation. He accompanied King Richard the First to the Holy Land; and when that prince returning to En-

There captive Mary looked in vain
For Norfolk, and her nuptial train;
Enriched with royal tears the Dove,
But sighed for freedom, not for love.

(1) Upon the authority of my learned friend Mr. Pipe Wolferstan, I have omitted two generations after this William de Ferrers, which Dugdale appears to have set down by mistake.

gland, and after his adventures in Palestine, and his imprisonment in Austria, thought proper to have a second coronation, this William de Ferrers was one of the four noblemen, who on that occasion, carried the rich canopy over the king's head.

In 1 John he was solemnly created Earl of Derby by a special charter; and was *girt with a sword, by the king's own hands*: being the first, as Selden remarks, (Tit. of Hon. p. 655) of whom in any charter that expression is used. He likewise obtained a grant of the third penny, of all the Pleas impleaded before the sheriff, of the whole county whereof he was earl; to hold to him and his heirs, in as ample a manner, as any of his ancestors had enjoyed the same.

King John bestowed many other favours upon him, for which this earl was so grateful, that when John was reduced to the last extremity by the powerful barons who had combined against him, and was deposed by the pope; he took his solemn oath for the king's performance of the articles to which he had submitted; and was likewise one of the witnesses to that charter by which John gave up this realm to the Pope. Soon after, the king gave him a house in London, to hold by the service, that he and his heirs, should serve the king at dinner, upon all festivals, without any cap, having a garland on his head of the breadth of his little finger.

After the death of King John, the Earl of Derby was firm in his loyalty and attachment to his infant son and successor Henry III.; in the second year of whose reign, he made a journey to Palestine, with Ranulph, Earl of Chester, a common practice among the great in those days. (1) He married Agnes, one of the sisters and co-

(1) Upon his return, when he was at sea, there happening a dreadful storm, he asked the mariners, how long it was then to midnight? and

heirs of that earl, with whom he obtained a great inheritance, consisting of all the land which lies between the Ribble and Mersey, in Lancashire ; which had formerly belonged to Richard de Poitou, third son of Roger de Montgomery, the great Earl of Shrewsbury.(1) By this marriage the manor and castle of Chartley in Staffordshire, also came to the family of Ferrers. Having been long afflicted with the gout, the Earl of Derby departed this life 31 H.3.; and his countess died the same month. M. Paris affirms, that they were married, by St. Thomas of Canterbury, in the reign of Henry II., and that they lived together as man and wife 75 years. Wm. de Ferrers, his son, succeeded to the honours and estates of the family. He married Sibil, daughter and coheiress of Wm. Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke ; by whom he had 7 daughters, who were all married to great lords of that time. By Margaret his second wife, daughter and coheiress of Roger de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, he had two sons, Robt. who succeeded him in the earldom of Derby, and Wm., who

they told him, it was almost two hours. Said he then, *labour till that time, and I trust to God the tempest will cease.* But when midnight approached, the tempest increased so much, that the master of the ship bad him commend himself to God, for they were all like to perish : whereupon he went out of his cabin, and stoutly assisting them, the tempest soon assuaged. The day following therefore, when the seas were calm, and the danger clearly over, the master asked him, why he would not stir to assist them till midnight ; telling him, that his help was then more than all the mariners in the ship. Quoth he, *because my monks, and other devout people, who were of mine, and my ancestors foundation, did then rise to sing divine service. For that reason therefore, did I put confidence in their prayers ; and therefore, my hope is, that God Almighty for their prayers and suffrages, would give me such strength as I had not before, and assuage the tempest, as I foretold.*"—(Dug. Bar. vol. 1. p. 43.)

(1) See note A.

seated himself at Groby, in Leicestershire, which was a part of his mother's inheritance. (1) Earl William, who like his father, had been sorely afflicted with the gout, even from his youth, was accus-

(1) From these two brothers, sprung some of the most noble and illustrious families in England. From the eldest, Robert, Earl of Derby, descended by the female line :

1. The family of Devereux, Viscounts Hereford, and Earls of Essex ; of whom was Robert, Earl of Essex, the celebrated favourite of Queen Elizabeth.

2. The family of Shirley, now Earls Ferrers, and owners of Chartley.

3. The late Marquis Townshend, who, in right of his mother, great grand-daughter of Earl Ferrers, enjoyed the barony of Ferrers de Chartley, and the castle of Tamworth ; which last descended by a female, from the Marmions, its ancient possessors, to the Freviles ; and from them, in like manner, to a branch of the family of Ferrers. The male line of this illustrious name is still preserved in the person of Edward Ferrers, Esq. of Baddesley, in the county of Warwick ; who is lineally descended from Sir Henry Ferrers, Knt. second son of Sir Thomas Ferrers and Elizabeth Freville, above-mentioned, and who is married to a daughter of the late Marquis Townshend, by which the two lines were again united, after a separation of above 300 years.

From William, brother to Robert, Earl of Derby, descended the family of Ferrers, Barons of Groby, of whom was William, the fifth and last baron of that race. He died in 1445, leaving two sons, Henry and Thomas. (Thomas married one of the daughters and coheirs of Sir Baldwin de Freville, and was ancestor to the Ferrers of Tamworth ; which family ended in a female, who married the Hon. Robert Shirley, son of Earl Ferrers, representative of the eldest branch of Ferrers, Earls of Derby.) Henry, *eldest* son of William, last Baron of Groby, died before his father ; leaving by his wife Elizabeth Mowbray, daughter of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, an only daughter and heiress, who married Sir Edward Grey, second son of Reginald, Lord Grey de Ruthin.

(Bolton, in his "Extinct Peerage," says of Grey ; " A most noble ex-

tomed to be drawn from place to place in a chariot ; and passing over a bridge in Huntington, he was overturned through the

tended family of barons, viscounts, earls, marquisses, and dukes, in twelve different brauches of peerage.”)

Sir Edward Grey was summoned to Parliament, as Lord Ferrers of Groby, 27 Henry 6. ; and was succeeded by his son Sir John Grey, who married the daughter of Woodville, Earl Rivers. He was slain at the battle of St. Albans, 39 Henry 6, leaving issue two sons, Sir Thomas Grey and Sir Richard, both knights. (Sir Richard Grey was afterwards beheaded at Pomfret, by order of King Richard the Third.) Their mother became the queen of Edward the Fourth ; and through her interest, her eldest son Sir Thomas Grey, was created Earl of Huntingdon and Marquis of Dorset. His grandson Henry, married, 1. Catherine, daughter of William Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundell, by whom he had no issue. 2. Lady Frances, eldest daughter of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, by Mary the French queen, sister of Henry VIII. His wife's brothers, dying without issue, this Marquis of Dorset was created Duke of Suffolk, by Edward VI. ; and after that king's death, his eldest daughter, the beautiful, the accomplished, the heroic Lady Jane Grey, (who married Guildford Dudley, fourth son of the Duke of Northumberland,) was proclaimed queen in opposition to Queen Mary, for which, she and her husband were beheaded. Her father the Duke of Suffolk, was then spared ; but entering again into an insurrection against the queen, he was obliged to conceal himself in a hollow tree in his park at Astley ; and being basely betrayed by his keeper, was beheaded on Tower-hill.

His widow, the Lady Frances, niece of Henry VIII. was buried in Westminster-abbey, under a tomb of alabaster, on which are these lines :

Nil decus, aut splendor, nil regia nomina prosunt,
Splendida divitias nil juvat anipla domus.
Omnia fluxerunt ! virtutis sola remansit
Gloria, tartareis non abolenda rogis.

heedlessness of the driver ; and had his limbs so bruised and broken by the fall, that he died in consequence of it, in the year 1204, and was buried in the abbey of Marevale. He bore the reputation of a discreet man, and of being well versed in the laws of the land.

Robt. Earl of Derby, was the last earl of this great family. Being a minor at his father's death, the Queen, and Peter de Savoy, gave 6,000 marks for the custody of his lands, till he came of age. At this time, the flames of civil war began to breakout between the king and his rebellious barons, headed by Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. The Earl of Derby joined their party, which being completely defeated at the decisive battle of Evesham, he was obliged to submit, and throw himself entirely on the king's mercy. He received a free pardon, in consideration of a cup of gold, adorned with precious stones, and 1,500 marks to be paid to the king within a twelvemonth ; and on condition, that if he should at any time transgress again, then without hope of pardon to be wholly disinherited ; for the strict performance of which agreement, he bound himself not only by a special deed but by his corporal oath before the king. Notwithstanding this solemn engagement, he refused to pay the fine, and raised a powerful army in Derbyshire ; but Henry, son of Richard, King of the Romans, advancing against him, he was completely routed at Chesterfield, after a sharp conflict, in which many of

All the honours of this unfortunate dñe, and his family, being thus lost, they continued in that state till the reign of James the First ; who gave to Sir Henry Grey, of Pirgo in Essex, nephew of the Duke of Suffolk, the title of Baron Grey of Groby : and his grandson, Lord Grey, was by Charles the First created Earl of Stamford ; from whom the present Earl of Stamford is descended.

his followers were slain. The Earl of Derby having taken refuge in a church, where he concealed himself under some sacks of wool, was betrayed by a woman, and carried prisoner to London.

In the parliament held at Westminster the same year, he was totally disinherited, and Edmund, the king's son, was invested with the earldom of Derby ; and also obtained a grant of all his goods and chattels, together with all his castles and lands to hold during pleasure.

Earl Robert was confined in prison for about three years ; but great mediation being made for him, he was released, and Prince Edmund was directed to restore him his possessions, on condition of his receiving on a certain day, 50,000*l.* at one entire payment. The sureties of Earl Robert for this agreement were, Henry, son of Richard, King of the Romans, William Valence, Earl of Pembroke, William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, Roger de Clifford, and some other great barons ; to whom, by way of counter-security, he gave all his castles and lands, except Chartley in Staffordshire, and Holbroke, in Derbyshire. This sum not being paid accordingly, those his sureties passed over their title therein, to Prince Edmund and his heirs for ever. (1)

(1) It was in this manner, that the vast estates, now called the Duchy of Lancaster, came to the crown. On the forfeiture of Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, Edmund Plantagenet, second son of Henry III. was created Earl of Chester, Leicester, Derby, and Lancaster. He was succeeded by his son Thomas, who was beheaded at Pomfret in 1322. His brother Henry was restored to all his titles, and was succeeded by his son Henry, who was created first Duke of Lancaster by Edward III. He died of the plague, in 1361, leaving an only daughter called Blanche ; who married John of Gaunt, fourth son of King Edward, by whom he was created Duke of Lancaster. Henry of Bollingbroke, his son, having deposed Richard the Second, succeeded to the crown by the name of Henry the Fourth hand ; from that time, all the great possessions of the house of Lancaster have been centered in the crown.

Earl Robert was married, first, to Mary, daughter of Hugh le Brun, Earl of Angouleme, and niece to King Henry the Third. At the time of their marriage he was only nine, and she but eight years of age. They had no issue. His second wife was daughter of Lord Basset ; by whom he had a son who was called Sir John de Ferrers, of Chartley. His grandson's grandson had an only daughter and heiress, who at the age of eleven years and eight months, was married to Sir John Devereux ; who was summoned to parliament \pm Edward 4, 1460, as Lord Ferrers of Chartley. He was slain with King Richard at Bosworth Field.

John, Lord Ferrers, his son, married the sister and final heiress of Henry Bourchier, Earl of Essex ; and their grandson Walter, was, by Edward the Sixth, created first Viscount Hereford.

His grandson, Walter Devereux, was made Earl of Essex, and died in Ireland, 18 Elizabeth, 1576.

Robert, Earl of Essex, his son and heir, was the great favourite of Queen Elizabeth ; but his history is too well known, to be repeated here. In the last year of the queen's reign, he was found guilty of high treason, and beheaded in the Tower.

His son Robert, Earl of Essex, commanded the parliamentary forces against Charles the First, and died without issue in 1646. By his death, the earldom of Essex became extinct, but the title of Viscount Hereford descended to Sir Walter Devereux, grandson of Walter, first viscount ; and from him the present Lord Hereford is descended.

Lady Dorothy Devereux, one of the two sisters of Robert, last Earl of Essex, had allotted to her, among others of his estates, the old castle of Chartley, and the manor-house built by the first Viscount Hereford. She married Sir Henry Shirley, whose great grandson Sir Robert, was summoned to parliament in 1678, as Lord Ferrers of Chartley, and took his seat, according to the *ancient writ*

of summons in 1298. He was afterwards created Viscount Tamworth, and Earl Ferrers.

His eldest son, Robert Shirley, married Anne, daughter and heiress of Sir Humphrey Ferrers, of Tamworth ; who was descended from Thomas Ferrers, second son of William, fifth Lord Ferrers, of Groby. By this marriage, the estates of the two branches of Ferrers, Chartley, and Groby, were again re-united, after a lapse of more than four centuries.

Such was the fate of the first possessors of Tixall after the Conquest ! Such was the various and chequered fortune of their posterity !

(D)

The first upon record of this name is Sir Philip de Gasteneys, who married Amphelis, daughter and coheiress of Robert, son of Hardulph, by Diva, daughter and heir of Robert, son of Walter de Morley. In the curiouss record, called the “ Black Book of the Exchequer,” containing a list of knights fees, on which an aid was levied for the marriage of Matilda, daughter of Henry II. in 1166 ; William de Wasteneys is stated to hold two knights fees, and Galfridus, or Jeffrey, one and a half knights fees, in the barony of Stafford. This William was son of Sir Philip, and it is probable that Jeffrey was his younger brother, and that the elder held lands in Colton, and the younger in Tixall.

Sir Hardolph Wastneys, Knight, descendant of this Sir William, resided at Headon in Notts, and was made a baronet 20 Jac. I. His great grandson Sir Hardolph, fourth baronet, died about the year 1760, and was the last of the name.

Rose de Wasteneys, who sold Tixall to Sir Thomas Littleton, was descended from Paganus de Wasteneys, son of Jeffrey, and probably grandson of Sir Philip above-mentioned.

(E)

The record of this transaction is given by Dugdale, in his work entitled “ Origines Juridiciales,” in the thirty-third chapter, where treating of “ Fines, how antient, in what manner, before whom, and where levied;” he says, (towards the conclusion of the chapter,) “ And because the agreements thus made have ever been held inviolable, I shall in the last place exhibit an antient testimonial, to manifest how exact a course hath long ago been taken, not only by the judges, before whom they were levied, in a strict questioning of the cognizors, but the care which the cognizors themselves on their own parts had, by a serious deliberating what they did in these great and solemn conclusions.”

This document is in itself so curious, and so closely connected with my subject, that I think it will not be unpleasing to the reader to see it here at length :

“ To all christen men, to whom this present wryting shall come, Rose, that was the wyff of Sir John Merston Knight sendeth greeting in God everlasting: Know ye me the said Rose to sey and affirme, that Thomas Littleton, oon of the King’s Justices of the Common place, bargayned, bought, and purchased for a certayne summe of money, which he hath truly payd, the reversion of the Maner of Tixhale, in Staffordshire, and in certeine tene-ments and Rentes in other Towns in the same Shire, of the said John Marston, sumtyme my husband, and of me, to have after the decece of my said husband and me: by force of which a Fyne was rered at Westminster; by which Fyne a state was made of the said Maner to my husband and to me, terme of our lives; the remaynder thereof unto the said Thomas Littleton and Jane his Wife, and to the heires of the said Thomas Littleton for ever-

more, as in the sayd Fine more plenly appeareth. Afore which Fyne rered, I did aske of Sir John Prisot the Chefe Justice of the Common place, and divers others, to whom I had special confidence and trust; and also of divers other apprentices lerned in the Lawe, of my Councell; wheder that my seid husband and I, might sille the reversion of the said Maner without perell of our soules: and they desired me to confourme and shew them how the seid Maner afore that tyme was entayled: and I shewed them the part of an hole Fyne, whereof the tenor seweth in these words.

Hæc est finalis concordia facta in Curia domini Regis apud Westmonasterium, a die S. Trinitatis in xv. dies, anno regni Regis Edwardi, filii Regis Edwardi, decimo nono, coram Willielmo de Bereford, Johanne de Mutford, Willielmo de Herte, Johanne de Stonore, et Johanne de Busse, Justiciariis, et aliis domini Regis fidelibus, tunc ibi præsentibus; inter Galfridum de Wastneys de Tyxhale quærentem, et Rogerum de Aston personam Ecclesiæ de Weston, deforcientem, de Manerio de Tyxhale, cum pertinentiis, et advocatione Ecclesiæ ejusdem Manerii, unde Placitum conventionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem curia; scil. quod prædictus Galfridus recognovit prædicta maneria, cum pertinentiis, et advocationem prædictam esse jus ipsius Rogeri; ut illa quæ idem Rogerus habet de dono prædicti Galfridi: Et pro hac recognitione sine et concordia idem Rogerus concessit prædicto Galfrido prædictum manerium cum pertinentiis et advocationem prædictam, et illa ei reddidit in eadem curia, Habenda et tenenda eidem Galfrido de Capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia quæ ad prædictum manerium et advocationem pertinent, tota vita ipsius Galfridi: Et post decesum ipsius Galfridi, (etc.) remanere Maculino filio ejusdem Galfridi, et Margaretae uxori ejus, et hæredibus de corporibus ipsorum Maculini et Margaretae executibus; tenenda, (etc.) remanere Jo-

hanni fratri ejusdem Maculini et hæredibus de corpore suo procreatis ; tenenda, (etc.) remanere Henrico fratri ejusdem Johannis et hæredibus de corpore suo procreatis, (etc.) remanere Wil-lielmo fratri ejusdem Henrici, et hæredibus de corpore, (etc.) remanere rectis hæredibus ipsius Galfridi ; tenenda (etc.) imperpetuum.

And they asked me of whom and how that I came of any such persons named in the seyd Fine : and I seyd ; that I came of Makelyn Wastneys and Margaret his wiff named in the seyd Fine ; that is to say, that I am Daughter to Roger, sonne to William, son to the seyd Maculine and Margaret. They examined me, whether any of the Brethren of the said Maculine ; that is to sey, John, Henry, or William had any issue on lyve : and I seyd to them, Nay, but all ben ded without issu, which is very trouth. They asked me wheder I was heire to Geffrey Wasteneys named in the seyd Fyne ; and I seyd I am heire to the seyd Geffrey ; for he was my Graunsire's Graunsire. They asked me whether there was eny more issue now on fyve, that come of the said Mauculine and Margaret : and I said Nay: for I seyd, if Alianoure Harecourt, which was myn Aunte, that is to say my Faudrs Suster, had bin on lyve ; and overleved me, she shuld enherite the seid livelode by force of the seid taill made to Makelyn and Margaret after me : but now she is ded without issue, there is no more issue now on lyve that come of the seid Makelyn and Margaret sauf only I, in as much as I was the last of the entaill, and the fee-simple thereof was in me : whereupon my husband and I rered a Fyne in the fourme as I have seyd. And whereas Sir John Gresseley Knight seyth, as I am enfourmed, that he shuld be my next kyn to enherite after me the said livelode ; betwene God and me I sey, as I shall answer afore the day of Dome, I canne not, nor never cowde wete or knowe, nor never herde by my fader, nor other in noe maner wyse, how or in what wyse

he shulde be kyn to me, to enherite in eny wyse the said live-lode; save that it was seid, that he came of oon Sir Thomas Wastnesse, which Wastnesse was longe tyme afore the seyd old Fyne arered: but how, or what wyse I was kyn to that Wastnesse I cowd never here tell. And ferthermore I sey and affirme that there is none on lyve, that I know or can here of, that is or may be enheritable by eny maner of fee tayle specified or comprised in the seid old Fyne reryd in the time of the seid King Edward the second: In witness whereof to this present writinge I have put my seal.

(F)

The first person of note, of the ancient and illustrious family of Littleton, was John de Littleton, in the Vale of Evesham, in the reign of Henry the Second. His son bore as a device, three scallop shells, (which are a part of the family arms to this day) either from having been a soldier in the crusades, or from having made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. From him descended Thomas de Littleton, who 24 Hen. 3, married Emma, daughter of Sir Simon de Frankley, Knt. and sole heiress of the manor of Frankley, which has continued in the possession of the elder branch of the Littletons, ever since. By her he had no male issue. He married secondly, Asselina, daughter and heiress of William Fitz-Warin, of Upton in Worcestershire, who was one of the justices itinerant, and judge of the common pleas, 12 Hen. 3. By her he had a son, from whom was descended Thomas de Littleton, squire of the body to Henry IV. and V.; who had annual pensions granted him by both those kings, "pro bono et gratuito servitio," as expressed in the grants. He spelt his name Luttelton, and sealed with the chevron between three scallops, as now used by his posterity, but bore a different crest; viz: a greyhound's head collared. About the close of Henry the Fifth's reign, he was sheriff of Worcestershire, under Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, hereditary high sheriff of that county. He married Maud, daughter and heiress of Richard Quatremains, (1)

(1) The Quatremains are called by Camden, a family of great name; and by Leland, a famous house, and of right fair possessions.



JUDGE LITTLETON.

From a portrait in the collection of E.J. LITTLETON Esq'. M.A.

by whom he had an only daughter, who married Thomas Westcote, of Devonshire, a gentleman of ancient family, and a courtier in the service of King Henry the Sixth.

This high-born lady, being of a noble spirit, and having large possessions by inheritance from her ancestors the Littletons, and from her mother, the daughter and heiress of Quatremains, resolved to perpetuate the honour of her name; and therefore provided, by Westcote's assent before marriage, that her issue should bear the name of De Littleton.

Prince, in his "Worthies of Devonshire," informs us, that this Thomas Westcote, was born at Westcote near Barnstaple, and flourished in the reigns of Henry the Fourth and Fifth; that he was of a martial disposition, and addicted to feats of arms, by which he endeared himself to those two puissant princes; which, (says this author), is no mean argument of his worth.

His eldest son, Thomas Westcote, alias Littleton, was the famous lawyer, and was born about the beginning of the 15th century at Frankley in Worcestershire. Having laid a proper foundation of learning at one of the universities, he removed to the Inner Temple; and applying himself to the law, became very eminent in that profession; and first distinguished himself by his learned lectures on the Statute of Westminster, "De donis conditionalibus."

In 1447, he was sheriff of his native county; and in 1454, was called to the degree of serjeant at law. Henry the Sixth appointed him steward or judge of the court of the palace, or marshalsea of the king's household; and in 1455, king's serjeant, in which capacity he went the northern circuit as judge of assize. Upon the transferring of the crown from the house of Lancaster, to that of York, he sued for a pardon from Edward the Fourth, which that prince granted him in the second year of his reign. His only crime, probably, was his having espoused the cause of

Henry, his lawful sovereign, against Edward, then Duke of York. Whatever it was, the new king soon gave him sensible proofs of his favour and good will; in the fourth year of his reign he made him one of the judges of the court of common pleas, and granted him out of the customs of London, Bristol, and Hull, 110 marks, annually; “*ultra consuetum fædum, ut statum suum decentius tenere, et expensas sustinere valeat;*” as the words of the writ are. The same year, the king gave 106sh. 11½d. to furnish him with a furred robe, and 6s. 6d. more for a summer robe called *Linura*. In 1475, Judge Littleton resided near St. Sepulchre’s church, London, in a capital mansion, the property of the Abbot of Leicester, which he held on lease at the yearly rent of 16s. In 1475, he was created Knight of the Bath, to grace the solemnity of conferring that order on the Prince of Wales, afterwards Edward the Fifth; on which occasion, several persons of the first distinction, and in the highest favour at court, were advanced to that honour.

He continued to enjoy the favour and esteem of his sovereign, and the highest reputation for his profound knowledge, and great skill in the laws of England, during the remainder of his life. He made his last will August 22, 1481, and died, the next day, at his seat at Frankley, in a good old age; and was interred in the cathedral of Worcester, under a marble tomb which he had erected himself, with his statue upon it, and decorated with arms and quarterings, of which it was despoiled in the civil wars. His will which is curious, is given at length in Collins’s Peerage.

Judge Littleton wrote his famous “Treatise on Tenures,” probably not long before his death; a work, says Camden, to which the students of the common law are no less beholden, than the civilians to Justinian’s Institutes.

He married Joan, daughter and coheir of William Burley, of Bromscroft-castle, Shropshire, widow of Sir Philip Chetwynd, of

Ingestrie in Staffordshire, with whom he had large possessions. She brought him three sons and two daughters. Richard, his second son, who became eminent in the profession of the law, and for whose use his learned work was drawn up, was lineal ancestor to the late Sir Edward Littleton, Bart. of Teddesley, in Staffordshire, member of parliament for that county. His third son Thomas, was knighted by Henry VII. for taking Lambert Simnel, the pretended Earl of Warwick. He lived at Spetchley, near Worcester, an estate purchased by his father; and married Anne, daughter and heir (or coheir) of John Botreaux, of Botreaux-castle, in Cornwall. From him were descended the Lord Keeper Littleton, in the reign of Charles the First, whose character is given by Clarendon, in his history, Sir Thomas Littleton, speaker of the house of commons, in the reign of King William, and many other families.

The widow of Sir Thomas Littleton, the judge, survived him twenty-four years, and died in 1505, at the age of eighty. She left a great estate to her eldest son, Sir William Littleton, who was also knighted by Henry the Seventh, at the battle of Stoke, for bringing him aid against the Earl of Lincoln. He married twice: 1. Ellen, daughter of William Walsh, of Wanlip, (1) by

(1) The family of Walsh, or Welsh, in old deeds called Wallis or Waleys, was of great antiquity in Leicestershire, and the name is to be found among those recorded to have come into England with the Conqueror. Wanlip is pleasantly situated on the river Sore, about three miles from Leicester.

Sir Thomas Welsh built in 1393, the church of Wanlip, which he dedicated to St. Nicholas; and is there interred with his lady. In the east windows of the chancel he is represented as an armed knight, bearing his coat of arms, and his lady kneeling opposite to him, with this inscription underneath: “Orate pro a Thoma Welsh militis, qui hoc templum fieri fecit 1393 et pro a Catherin uxoris ejus.”

Mary, daughter and coheiress of Richard Byron, of Clayton ; by whom he had one daughter, Joan, *married to Sir John Aston, of Haywood.* His second wife was daughter of William Whittington, of Pantley, in Gloucestershire, by whom he had one son, from whom the present Lord Littleton is lineally descended. (1)

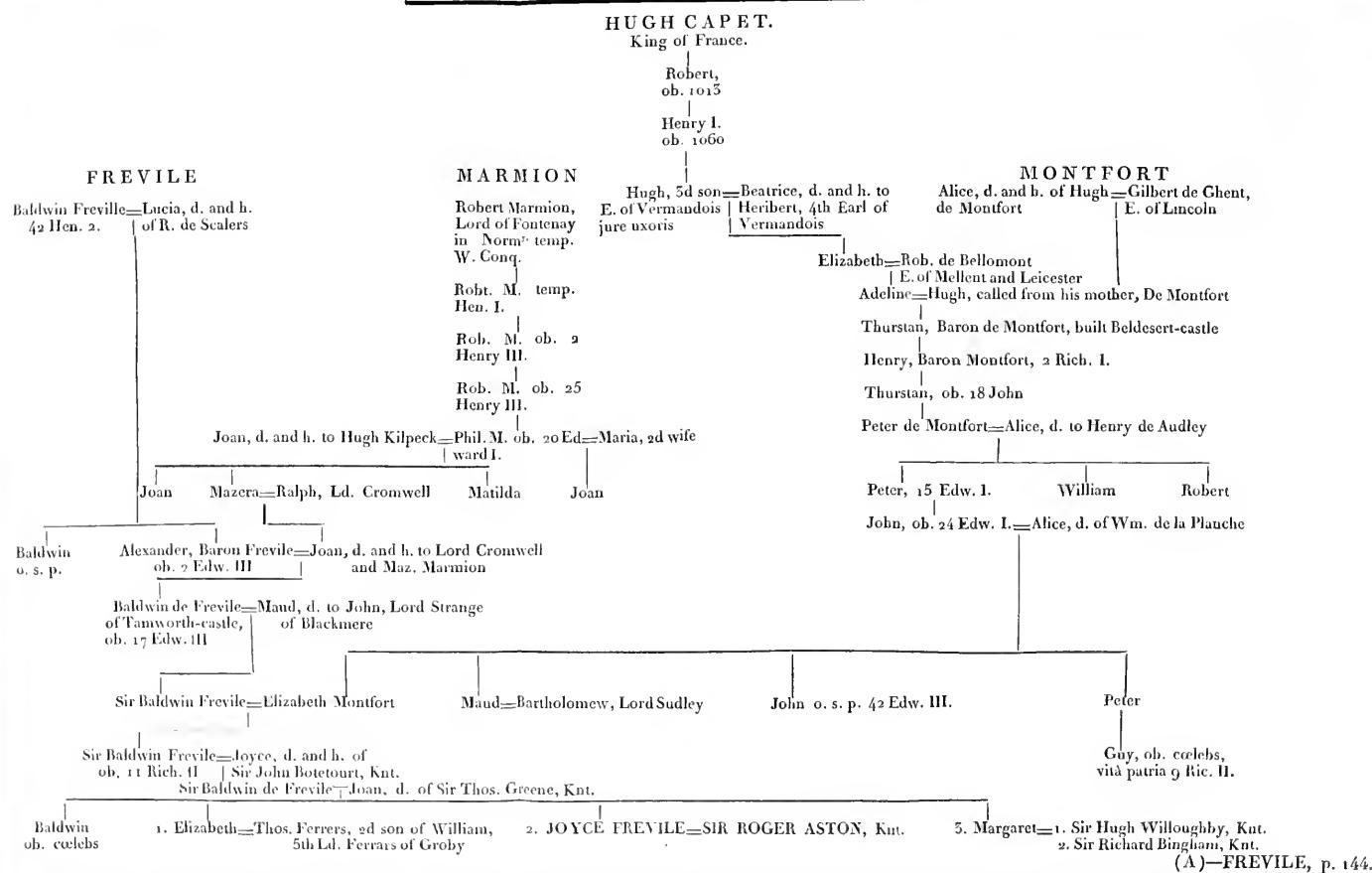
Sir William Littleton, was the first of his family who bore his arms with a supporter. It is uncertain upon what occasion this honourable addition was given to him. In a window of the abbey church of Great Malvern, there remains, to this day, a finely painted portrait of him, arrayed in armour, with an heraldic shield, and his name inscribed under it.

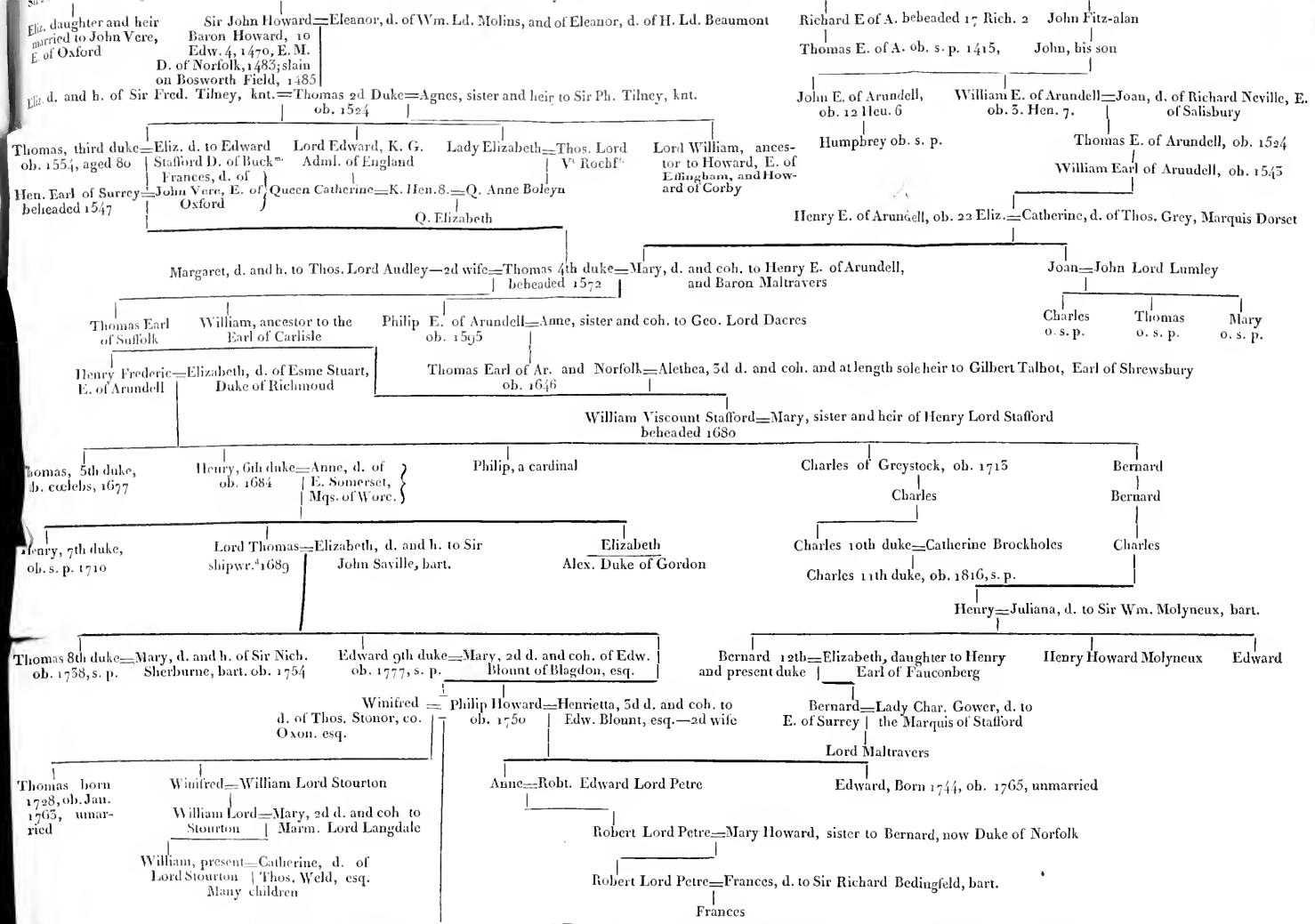
He died at Frankley in 1507, aged 65 ; and directed by his will, that his body should be buried within the monastery of Hales Owen, before the image of the Virgin Mary, and near the grave of his first wife Ellen.

(1) Of this branch of the Littletons, was that distinguished nobleman, George, first Lord Lyttelton, of Frankley ; who by his tasteful improvements, formed his seat at Hagley, into a most delightful and quite a classical spot. He was the confidential adviser and counsellor of the late Prince of Wales, his present majesty's father ; and was celebrated through the whole of his life, for his eminent virtues and talents, for his elegant writings both in prose and verse, and for his love and patronage of literature, and learned men. He was the friend of Mallet, Thomson, and Pope ; and will always be regarded as an illustrious ornament of his rank and country.—(See Johnson's Lives of the Poets, vol. 4.)

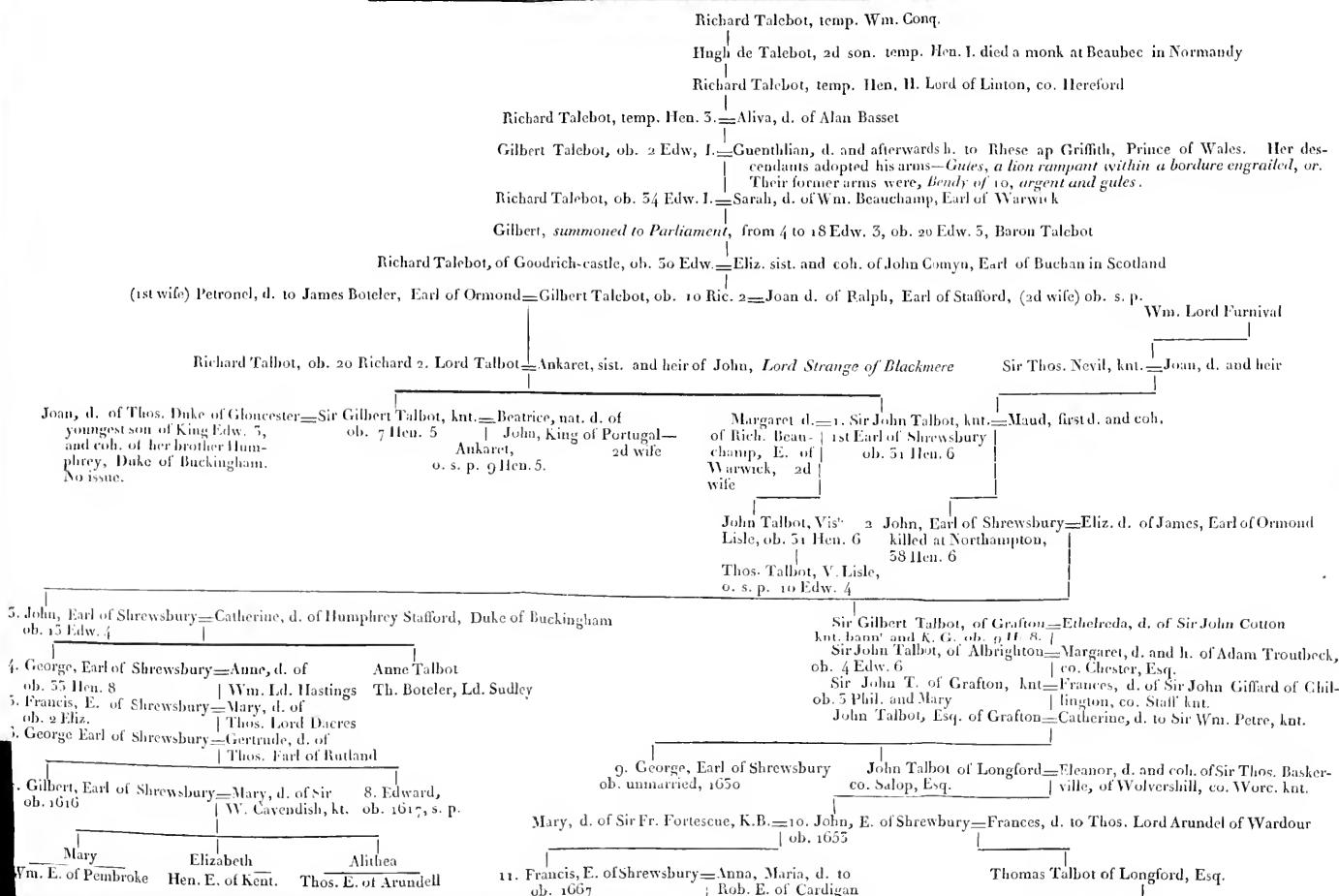
His son whose sprightly “ Letters” have been published, was unfortunately, no less conspicuous for very opposite qualities, and for the extraordinary circumstances which attended his death.

PEDIGREE of JOYCE de FREVILE, wife of Sir ROGER ASTON, Knt.





Pedigree of Lady Barbara Talbot,
WIFE OF
JAMES, FIFTH LORD ASTON.



No issue.

5. John, Earl of Shrewsbury=Catherine, d. of Humphrey Stafford, Duke of Buckingham
ob. 15 Edw. 4

4. George, Earl of Shrewsbury=Anne, d. of Anne Talbot
ob. 53 Hen. 8 | Wm. Ld. Hastings Th. Boteler, Ld. Sudley
5. Francis, E. of Shrewsbury=Mary, d. of Thos. Lord Dacres
ob. 2 Eliz.
6. George Earl of Shrewsbury=Gerttrude, d. of Thos. Earl of Rutland

7. Gilbert, Earl of Shrewsbury=Mary, d. of Sir W. Cavendish, kt. ob. 1617, s. p.
ob. 1616 | Mary Elizabeth Althea
Wm. E. of Pembroke Hen. E. of Kent. Thos. E. of Arundell

7. George, E. of Shrewsbury Charles=Mary, d. of Sir P. Mostyn
ob. 1787, s. p. ob. 1772 | of Talacre, co. Flint, Bart.
Elizabeth, d. of Maria Bedingfeld=John=Mary, d. of Wm. Clifton
in Ld. Dormer | 2d wife | of Lytham, Esq. (1st wife)
Two sons and three daughters John=Maria Talbot, d. of Wm. Talbot, of Castle Talbot, Esq.
One daughter

wife
John Talbot, Vis.
Lisle, ob. 51 Hen. 6 | John, Earl of Shrewsbury=Eliz. d. of James, Earl of Ormond
killed at Northampton, 58 Hen. 6
Thos. Talbot, V. Lisle,
o. s. p. 10 Edw. 4

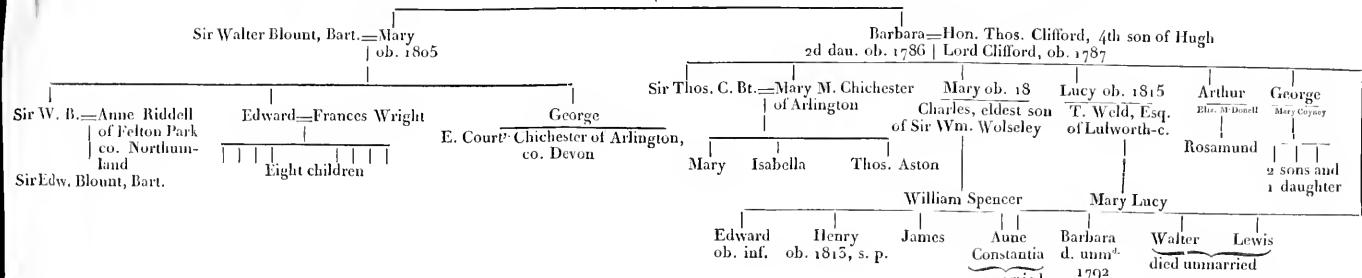
Sir Gilbert Talbot, of Grafton=Etheletha, d. of Sir John Cotton
kn. bann' and K. G. ob. 9 H. 8. | Sir John Talbot, of Albrighton=Margaret, d. and h. of Adam Troutbeck,
ob. 4 Edw. 6 | co. Chester, Esq.
Sir John T. of Grafton, kn.=Frances, d. of Sir John Giffard of Chil-
ob. 5 Phil. and Mary | ington, co. Staff. kn.
John Talbot, Esq. of Grafton=Catherine, d. to Sir Wm. Petre, kn.

9. George, Earl of Shrewsbury John Talbot of Longford=Eleanor, d. and coh. of Sir Thos. Basker-
ob. unmarried, 1650 co. Salop, Esq. ville, of Wolvershill, co. Wore. kn.
Mary, d. of Sir Fr. Fortescue, K.B.=10. John, E. of Shrewsbury=Frances, d. to Thos. Lord Arundel of Wardour
ob. 1655

11. Francis, E. of Shrewsbury=Auna, Maria, d. to Thomas Talbot of Longford, Esq.
ob. 1667 Rob. E. of Cardigan
12. Charles, Earl of Shrewsbury, Marquis of Alton, 15. Gilbert, E. of Shrewsbury, George=Mary, d. of Thomas, Vis-
Duke of Shrewsbury, ob. 1718 in holy orders; ob. 1755 | count Fitzwilliam
unmarried, 1743

James, V. A. Thomas, V. A. Mary=Charles Lord Dormer Francis=Frances, d. of R.
ob. col. 1789 ob. col. 1799 | Charles Lord Dormer, celebs Sheldon, Esq.
15. Charles, present E. of Shrewsbury=Mary, d. of —Hoy, Esq. Francis William Charles 4 | daughters
eldest son of Chas. T. and Mary Mostyn No issue

LADY BARBARA TALBOT=JAMES, FIFTH LORD ASTON.



(G) The Genealogy of the Family of ASTON,
of Tixall.

I. Ralph de Aston, or Eston, flourished at Haywood, in the county of Stafford, in the reign of Henry III. (1)

II. Roger de Aston, his son. In 14 Edw. 1, Roger de Molend, Bishop of Lichfield, made him constable of his castle at Eccleshall. (1) In 17 Edw. 1, he granted to him and his heirs, lands in Haywood and Bishton, and in 19 Edw. 1, lands in Longdon, and the mastership of the game in Cannock Chase. Roger de Aston purchased divers lands in Haywood, Hixon, Longdon, Brocton, Handsacre, and King's Bromley. Died 20 Edw. 2. Married Sybilla, daughter of James de la Laund. (2) Four sons : 1. John. 2. Robert. 3. Roger, rector of Weston. 4. Richard of Longdon. Two daughters : 1. Sybilla married Richard Wolseley, (2) and had lands in Bishton for her portion. 2. Joan married Sir Robert Mavesyn, of Mavesyn Ridware, Knt. (2)

III. Sir John Aston, of Haywood, Knt. In 7 Edw. 5, knight of the shire, (1) and 18 Edw. 5, high sheriff of Staffordshire. Ob. 53 Edw. 5. Married, first, Alice, daughter and coheir of Hugo Meynell of Hints, Esq. who died without issue : secondly, Emma, who died 16 Edw. 3. Two sons :

1. Roger.

2. Richard of Ashbrook, whose son, Adam Aston, married Armitude, daughter and heir of Henry Davies of Horecross, near Abbot's Bromley. Alice, sole daughter and heir of Rich. A. of Horecross, their son, married in 1417, John Welles of Little

(2) See Appendix V.

(1) Appendix VI.

Haywood and Lichfield, son of Thomas Welles and Cicily Aston, great grand-daughter of Rich. A. de Longdon above-named. (3)

IV. Sir Roger Aston. In 27 and 25 Edw. 5, knight of the shire for the county of Stafford. Two sons:

1. *Thomas.*

2. John, whose daughter and heiress Alice married Roger de Stanford.

V. Sir Thomas Aston, of Haywood and Leigh, (1) knight of the shire, in 5 and 16 Rich. 2, and 1 and 8 Hen. 4; high sheriff 10 Hen. 4. Married Elizabeth, sister and coheir of Reginald de Leigh, (2) and Parkhall, (1) in the county of Stafford. One son, *Roger.*

VI. Sir Roger Aston, sheriff of Staffordshire, 5 and 10 Henry 6. One of the prime gentry returned by the commissioners for that county, 12 Hen. 6. Ob. 26 Hen. 6. Married Joyce, one of the three daughters and coheirs of Sir Baldwin de Freville, (2) Knt.: who, besides large estates, brought him Beldesert-castle, co. Warwick, which came to the Frevilles by her great grandmother Elizabeth, sister and coheir of John, Baron de Montfort, (2) who was descended from Hugh, the great Earl of Vermandois, third son of Henry I. King of France. Sir Baldwin de Freville, the husband of Elizabeth de Montfort, was grandson of Alexander, Baron de Freville, who married Joanna, the descendant, and one of the heirs of Sir Philip Marmion, Knt. (2)

Joyce de Freville, the wife of Sir Roger Aston, was granddaughter of Joyce, daughter and coheir of Thomas, Baron de Bouteourt. (2) Elizabeth, sister of Joyce de Freville, married Thomas de Ferrers, and brought him the castle of Tamworth, and large estates. From them the late Marquis Townshend was descended. Margaret,

(2) Appendix V.

(1) Appendix VI.

(3) Harl. MS. 1077.

the third sister, married first, Sir Hugh Willoughby, Knt. ancestor of Lord Middleton; second, Sir Richard Bingham, Knt.:

One son, *Robert*.

One daughter, Joan, married Sir Roger Draycot, Knt. of the Holy Sepulchre. (2)

VII. Sir Robert Aston, Knt. high sheriff of Staffordshire 51 Hen. 6. Ob. 7 Edw. 4. Married Isabella, daughter of Sir William Brereton of Cheshire, Knt. (2)

One son, *John*.

Two daughters :

1. Isabella, married to Richard Bagot of Blithfield, co. Stafford, Esq. (2) ancestor of the present Lord Bagot.

2. Petronilla, married to Richard Biddulph, Esq. of Biddulph in Staffordshire, which is still the property of his descendant, John Biddulph, Esq. of Burton in Sussex. (2)

VIII. John Aston, Esq. (1) sheriff of the counties of Stafford and Warwick, 16 and 20 Edw. 4, (1442) one of the eighty-nine knights and esquires, retainers for life to William, Lord Hastings. (1) Married Elizabeth, daughter of John Delves, of Doddington, co. Chester, Esq. (1) Ob. 1 Ric. 3. Two sons :

1. *John*.

2. Richard o. s. p. Ten daughters :

1. Isabella, married Humphrey Okeover of Okeover, Esq.

2. Margaret, married W. St. Andrew of Gotham, co. Notts, Esq.

3. Elizabeth, married John Basset of Blore, Esq. (2)

4. Margaret, married, first Thomas Kinnersley of Loxley, Esq. secondly, Ralph Wolsey of Wolsey, Baron of the Exchequer.

5. , married Dudley, Esq. of Sedgley.

6., married Braddock, Esq. of Adbaston.
7. Catherine, married Thomas Blount of Burton near Uttoxeter, Esq. (2)
8. Alice, married John Dodd of Chorley, county Lancaster, Esq.
9., married Sir Andrew Colwich of Colwich, Knt. (2)
10. Rose, married Thomas Cludd of Ormesby, county Salop, Esq.

IX. Sir John Aston, made a Knight of the Bath, at the marriage of Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII. Accompanied Henry VIII. in his expedition into Brittany, and was at the sieges of Terouenne and Tournay. For his conduct and bravery at the battle of Spurs, was made a knight banneret, by the king on the field; sheriff of Staffordshire, 16 and 24 Hen. 7, and 5 Hen. 8, and of Leicestershire, and Warwickshire, 2 Hen. 8. Ob. 15 Hen 8, 1525. Married Joan, daughter of Sir William Littleton, Knt. son of the famous Chief Justice Littleton, (2) from whom she inherited Tixall, and from her mother Helen, daughter and coheir of Robert Walsh, Esq. (2) and of Margery, daughter and coheir of Sir Richard Byron, Knt. (2) Wanlip, *et alia* in Leicestershire. Two sons :

1. *Edward.*

2. William married Elizabeth Stapleton, of Carlton, Yorkshire (2) and had issue Francis, (1) who in 1564, married Mary, daughter of Anthony Astley, Esq. of Church-Eaton.

Two daughters :

1. Anne, married Thomas Curzon of Croxall, Esq. from whom the Duke of Dorset is descended. (2)
2. Helen married first, Hugh Erdeswick of Sandon, Esq. (2) who died without issue. Secondly, John Morgan, Esq. Sir John

Aston and his lady were buried in Leigh church, under a costly marble monument, still entire. (1)

X. Sir Edward Aston of TIXALL, Knt. (1) sheriff of Staffordshire, 20, 26, and 52 Hen. 8; and 5 and 4 Philip and Mary. Built a mansion at Tixall 1555. Ob. 10 Eliz. 1568. Married first, Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon, Knt. who died without issue 1525, and was buried at Wanlip; secondly, Jane, daughter of Sir Thomas Bolles, of Penho-castle, co. Monmouth, Knt. baron of the exchequer, who died in 1562. (2) Three sons :

1. *Walter.*

2. Leonard, married Elizabeth Barton of Chester, relict of —— Creswell, Esq. and was settled at Longdon, co. Stafford. Had sons, and a daughter Jane, married to Henry Skipwith, Esq.

5. Antony, married Elizabeth Lawley of Spoon-hill, co. Salop, (2) and had issue two sons and two daughters. They resided at Park-hall.

Three daughters :

1. Catherine, married Sir William Gresley, Knt. (2) from whom the present baronet is descended.

2. Mary, married Sir Simon Harcourt, Knt. ancestor of the Earl of Harcourt. (2)

5. Frances, married Robert Needham of Shenton, Esq. ancestor of Viscount Kilmorey. (2)

Sir Edward Aston, and his lady, were buried under a stately altar tomb of alabaster, in St. Mary's church, Stafford.

XI. Sir Walter Aston, Knt. (1) was knight of the shire 6 Edw.

6. Was knighted by Queen Elizabeth for his bravery at the siege of Leith, near Edinburgh. Sheriff of Staffordshire 12 and 22 Elizabeth. Built Tixall gatehouse. Ob. 1589. Married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Leveson, Knt. (2) Six sons :

1. *Edward.*

2. Robert, who had Leigh and Parkhall; he married Joyce, daughter of William Dalyson, Esq. justice of the king's bench, and died in 1625, having issue three sons and three daughters; his grand daughter Frances, an only child, carried the Leigh estate to the Whitehalls.

5. Richard was rector of Leigh, and died 1602. Married Julian Clerke, widow, by whom he had three sons and four daughters.

4. William of Milwich, ancestor of the present Lord Aston, (1) married Elizabeth, daughter of Waldivie Willington of Hurley.

5. Hastings, ob. cœlebs, 1586.

6. Devereux, married, first, Goditha, widow of Richard Skeffington, second, Margaret Betham, o. s. p.

Six daughters :

1. Jane (1) married William Crompton of Stone. (2)

2. Margery married Thomas Astley, Esq.

3. Eleanor (1) married William Peyto of Chesterton, co. Warwick, Esq. (2)

4. Mary married Christopher Collier of Earl Hyde, (now called Yarlet) Esq.

5. Elizabeth (1) married Basil Fielding, ancestor of the Earls of Denbigh and Desmond. (2)

6. Catherine married first, Sir Stephen Slaney, lord mayor of London, Knt. secondly, Sir William Chetwynd of Ingestrie, Knt. thirdly, Sir Edward Cope of Canon Ashby, co. Northampton, Knt.

XII. Sir Edward Aston, (1) Knt. was a ward of Queen Elizabeth, and was knighted by her on his coming of age. In 56 Eliz. was sheriff of Staffordshire. Ob. 1598, married first, Mary, third daughter of Sir John Spencer, Knt. of Althrop, co. Northampton, by whom he had no issue. Second, Anne, only daughter of Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote, co. Warwick, Knt. descended from Hugh Capet. (2) Three sons :

1. *Walter.*

2. Edward of the jewel office, married Anne, only daughter of Lee Sadler of Temple Dinesley, Herts, Esq. second son of Sir Ralph Sadler.

3. Thomas of the Inner Temple, ob. ccel. Four daughters :

1. Joyce, married Sir Martin Culpepper, co. Oxon, Knt.

2. Elizabeth, married — Sandbach of Broadway, Worcestershire, Esq.

3. Anne, (1) married Ambrose Elton of Hasel, co. Hereford, Esq.

4. Jane, married Thomas Elton, M. D. brother of Ambrose.

XIII. Sir Walter Aston, (1) made Knight of the Bath at the coronation of James I. In 1611, created a baronet. In 1619, sent ambassador into Spain to negotiate a marriage between Charles Prince of Wales, and the Infanta. In 1627, (5 Car. 1.) created a Scotch peer, by the title of Baron Aston of Forfar in Scotland. In 1635, again sent ambassador to Spain, and returned 1638. Buried in St. Mary's, Stafford. Married Gertrude Sadler of Stan-don, co. Herts, daughter of Sir Thomas, and grand daughter of Sir Ralph Sadler, knight banneret, who in 1660, by the death of her brother Ralph, without issue, became a great heiress. Five sons :

1. Walter ob. infans.

2. *Walter*, second Lord Aston.

3. Herbert, married Catherine, sister of Sir John Thimelby of Irnham, co. Lincoln, Knt. (2)

4. Thomas ob. infans.

5. John.

Five daughters :

1. Gertrude ob. infans.

2. Honoria died at Vittoria in Spain.

(2) Appendix V.

(1) Appendix VI.

3. Frances, married Sir William Persall of Canwell, co. Stafford, Knt. (2)

4. Gertrude, married Henry Thimelby, brother of Sir John Thimelby, and after her husband's death became a nun at Louvain, in Flanders.

5. Constantia, married W. Fowler of St. Thomas' Priory, Esq.

XIV. Walter, second Lord Aston. (1) Took part with the king in the great rebellion, and defended Lichfield, besieged by the rebels, for 19 weeks. Ob. 1678, aged 69. Buried at St. Mary's, StaffORD. Married Lady Mary Weston, second daughter of Richard Weston, Earl of Portland, lord high treasurer. (2) Four sons :

1. *Walter.*

2. Thomas, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Ogle of Dissington, co. Northumberland, Esq. (1)

3. Charles ob. inf.

4. William o. s. p.

Five daughters :

1. Elizabeth, married Sir John Southcote of Merstham, co. Surrey, Knt. (2)

2. Frances, married Sir Edward Gage of Hengreave, Suffolk, Bart. (2)

5, 4. Gertrude and Mary, died unmarried.

5. Anne, married Henry Somerset, son and heir of Sir John Somerset, second son of Henry, Marquis of Worcester. (2)

XV. Walter, third Lord Aston. (1) Born in 1635. Sent to the Tower in 1680, on account of Oates's plot, and not released till 1684. Same year made lord lieutenant of the county of Stafford. Ob. 1714, aged 81. Married first, Eleanor, daughter of Sir Walter Blount of Soddington, county Worcester, Bart. (2) and widow of Robert Knightley of Offchurch, co. Warwick,

Esq. who died in 1674. Five sons :

1. Edward died at Clermont College, Paris, in 1678, aged 20.
2. Francis, o. s. p. 1694.
3. *Walter*, fourth Lord Aston.
4. Charles, born 1664, captain of the band of Greenwich pensioners, killed at the Boyne in 1690 : unmarried.
5. William, ob. inf. Two daughters : Mary and Catherine died unmarried.

XVI. Walter, fourth Lord Aston. Born about 1661. Ob. 1747. Married, first, Mary, only daughter of Lord Thomas Howard, and sister to Thomas, and Edward, eighth and ninth Dukes of Norfolk, (2) lineally descended from Edward I. King of England. She died in childbed of her eleventh child, James, in 1723. Five sons :

1. *Walter*.
2. *Edward Richard*.
3. *Thomas William Antony*.
4. *Charles Joseph*, all died before their father.
5. *James*, fifth Lord Aston. Six daughters :
 - 1, 2. Mary and Anne died infants.
 3. *Catherine Elizabeth*.
 4. *Mary Anne* died an infant.
 5. *Margaret*, a nun at Paris.
 6. *Eleanor*.

Married, secondly, Catherine, youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Gage of Firle, Bart. by whom he had no issue.

XVII. James, fifth Lord Aston. Born 1723. Died 1751 of the small-pox. Married Lady Barbara Talbot, eldest daughter of George, 14th Earl of Shrewsbury. (2) Two daughters coheiresses :

1. Mary married Sir Walter Blount, of Soddington, co. Worcester, Bart. died 1805.
2. Barbara, married Hon. Thomas Clifford, (fourth son of Hugh, Lord Clifford of Chudleigh,) and died in the year 1786.

(H) The Genealogy of the Family of CLIFFORD,
of Tixall.

I. Ponts, son of William, Earl of Eu, (son of Richard I. Duke of Normandy, grandson of Rollo) came over with the Conqueror. Four sons :

1. Richard.
2. Osbern, Lord of Longeney in Gloucestershire.
3. Drogo or Dru, Lord of Frampton, which he left to his brother Richard.
4. Walter, Lord of Lea, in the Forest of Deane.

II. Richard Fitzponts. Held Landover-castle, and Bychan hundred in Wales, by grant of Henry I. Three sons :

1. Simon, founder of Clifford Priory in Herefordshire.
2. *Walter.*
3. Richard.

III. Walter, governor of Landover and Brynllis castles in Wales : died 1216. Married Margaret, daughter of Ralph de Toeny, Lord of Clifford-castle, in Herefordshire, and took the name of De Clifford. Five sons :

1. *Walter.*
2. Richard de Clifford, Lord of Frampton, and ancestor of the Cliffords of that place.
3. Roger de Clifford, o. s. p.
4. Simon, o. s. p.
5. Hugh, o. s. p. Two daughters :
 1. Rosamund had issue by Henry II. two sons ; William Longespée, Earl of Salisbury, and Geoffrey Plantagenet, Archbishop of York.
 2. Lucy or Alice married Hugh, Lord Say, baron of Richard's castle, co. Hereford.

IV. Walter de Clifford, second Lord Clifford of Clifford-castle, sheriff of Herefordshire, 1, 8, 9, and 17 John : ob. 7 Hen. 5, 1225. Married Agnes, sole daughter and heir of Roger de Cundy of Covenby and Glentham, co. Lincoln, by Alice, sole daughter and heir to Wm. de Cheney, Lord of Covenby and Glentham. Five sons :

1. *Walter.*

2. Roger married Sibilla, daughter and coheir of Robert de Ewyas, a great baron, and widow of Lord Tregoz : ob. 16 Hen. 5, leaving issue *Roger*, afterwards Lord Clifford.

3. Richard.

4. Simon.

5. Giles. Several daughters.

V. Walter, third lord, baron of the marches of Wales, governor of Caermarthen and Cardigan-castles, 12 Hen. 5 : ob. 48 Hen. 5. Married first, Isabella, who died s. p. ; second, Margaret, daughter to Llewellyn, Prince of Wales. An only daughter Matilda, married first, William Longespée, (son of William, Earl of Salisbury,) great grandson of Rosamund Clifford, by whom she had an only daughter and heiress Margaret Longespée, who brought Clifford-castle in marriage to Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln; secondly, Sir John Giffard of Brimsfield, co. Gloucester, by whom she had three daughters.

VI. Roger, fourth Lord Clifford, nephew and ward of Walter, third lord. Made governor of Marlborough and Luggershall-castles, Wiltshire. Joined the rebellious barons against Henry III. ; but afterwards returned to his allegiance, and fought for the king at Evesham. Obtained the wardship of Isabella, daughter and coheir of Robert de Vipont, a great baron in Westmoreland. Was made justice of all the king's forests, south of Trent. In 55 Hen. 5, appointed one of the justices in Eyre for the counties Rutland, Surrey, Southampton, Dorset, Somerset, and Gloucester.

cester ; and was one of the guarantees for Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby. In 54 Hen. 3, he engaged in the Crusade. In 1 Edw. 1. married the Countess of Lorraine : ob. 14 Edw. 1. One son, Roger, married Isabella de Vipont, above-mentioned, and was slain in a skirmish with the Welsh in his father's life-time, and buried in Anglesey.

VII. Robert, fifth Lord Clifford, grandson of the last. Was engaged in the Scotch wars. In 1297, appointed justice of all the king's forests north of Trent. In 27 Edw. 1, king's lieutenant, and captain-general in the counties of Cumberland, Westmoreland, and Lancaster, and throughout all Annandale, and the marches of Scotland. *Summoned to parliament* 28 Edw. 1; also 50, 52, 54 Edw. 1, and 1 Edw. 2. Appointed Earl Marshal of England, and governor of Nottingham-castle, 1 Edw. 2. Obtained a grant of Skipton-castle 5 Edw. 2. Slain at the battle of Bannockbourne in 1514, 8 Edw. 2. Married Matilda, daughter and coheir of Thomas de Clare, second son of Richard, Earl of Gloucester, lord of the honour of Clare in Ireland, which inheritance was divided among his daughters. Two sons :

1. *Roger.*

2. *Robert.*

One daughter, Idonea, married Henry, Lord Percy.

VIII. Roger, sixth Lord Clifford, attainted for taking part with Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, 1321, whereby, *inter alia*, his house in London, called Clifford's Inn, was forfeited. Restored in blood 1 Edw. 5. Died unmarried the same year.

IX. Robert, seventh Lord Clifford, brother of the last. Entertained Edward Baliol, King of Scotland, at his castles of Appleby and Brougham. In 9 Edw. 5, appointed warden of the marches of Cumberland, and Westmoreland, and captain-general of all the forces in those parts. In 15 Edw. 5, was engaged in the Scottish wars : died 18 Edw. 5, aged 59. Married Isabella de Berkeley, only daughter of Maurice, Lord Berkeley, of Berkeley-castle. Three sons :

1. *Robert.*

2. *Roger.*

5. Sir Thomas de Clifford, Knt. who had lands in Thomond, in Ireland. From him descended Richard Clifford, Bishop of Worcester, in 1401, and of London, in 1407, who assissted at the Council of Constance, and was then appointed cardinal, and nominated to the papacy, but waved his claim in favour of Cardinal Colonna.

X. Robert, eighth Lord Clifford. He was under age when his father died, and a ward of Ralph de Nevill, first Earl of Westmoreland, who married him to his sister Euphemia, cousin german to her husband. He fought at the battle of Crecy when only sixteen years old, and was also at the battle of Poitiers 1357. He died in France about 1352, without issue.

XI. Roger, ninth Lord Clifford, brother to the last, warden of the marches of Scotland, and governor of Carlisle-castle : sheriff of Cumberland, 50 Edw. 5.; knight banneret and head sheriff of Westmoreland : ob. 15 Rich. 2., 1589. Married Maud, daughter of Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

One son, *Thomas.*

Two daughters :

1. Mary, married Sir Thomas Wentworth, of Wentworth Woodhouse, co. York, Knt.

2. Margaret, married Sir John Melton, Knt.

XII. Thomas, tenth Lord Clifford. Summoned to parliament 15, 14, 15 Richard 2.: Married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, Lord Ros of Hamlake. Three sons :

1. John, eleventh Lord Clifford, was slain at Meaux in France. His son Thomas, twelfth lord, slain at St. Albans. John, thirteenth lord, son of Thomas, slain near Ferrybridge. Henry, fourteenth lord, son of John, called the Shepherd. Henry, fifteenth lord, son of Henry the Shepherd, created Earl of Cumberland. George, third Earl of Cumberland, his grandson, died 1605, and left an only daughter and heiress, Lady Anne Clifford,

Countess of Dorset, Pembroke, and Montgomery, who was Baroness Clifford in her own right. Her daughter Margaret, married John, Earl of Thanet, whose son Thomas had five daughters, among whom the barony of Clifford was in abeyance. Lady Catherine the eldest, married Lord Viscount Sondes, son of the Earl of Rockingham, by whom she had three sons, who died s. p. and a daughter Catherine, married to Edward Southwell of King's Weston, Gloucestershire, Esq. to whose descendants the barony of Clifford has since been confirmed.

2. Sir William Clifford, Knt. governor of Berwick, and constable of Bordeaux, o. s. p. 6 Hen. 5.

5. *Lewis.* One daughter Maud, married first, Richard, Earl of Cambridge; second, John Nevil, Lord Latimer.

XIII. Sir Lewis Clifford, Knt. brother of John, eleventh Lord Clifford. Was a Knight of the Garter. In 15 Rich. 2, signed a remonstrance to the pope, with the king, peers, and other great men. In 15 Rich. 2, sent ambassador to France; and again 19 Rich. 2, to treat of a marriage between Isabel, the French king's daughter, and the King of England: ob. 6 Hen. 4, 1404. One son, *William.* One daughter, married Sir Phillip la Vache.

XIV. William Clifford, Esq. married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir to Sir Arnold Savage, Knt.: and widow of Sir Reginald Cobham, Knt. ob. 16 Hen. 6. Two sons: 1. Lewis, from whom the Clifords of Kent descended. 2. *John.*

XV. John, second son of William Clifford, married Florentia, daughter of John St. Leger, Esq.

XVI. Thomas Clifford, Esq. son and heir of John, seated at Borscombe, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, married Thomasina, daughter, and (after the death of her brother William, s. p. 1 Hen. 8.) heir of John Thorpe, Esq. of King's Teignton, co. Devon.

XVII. William Clifford of Borscombe and King's Teignton, son of Thomas, married Elizabeth Vaux of Odiham, co. Southampton.

XVIII. Henry Clifford, son of William, married Elizabeth Carrant, of Tumber, co. Somerset.

XIX. Antony Clifford of Borscomb, son of Henry : ob. 1580. Buried in Exter cathedral. Married Anne, daughter of Sir Peter Courtenay, Knt. of Ugbrooke, co. Devon. Three sons :

1. Henry, from whom descended the Cliffords of Borscomb and King's Teignton, which line ended in a female, only daughter and heir of James Clifford, married to Colonel Bampfield.

2. William.

3. *Thomas.*

One daughter, Magdalen, married first, John Ley, alias Kempthorne of Tonacomb, Cornwall, Esq.; secondly, Leonard Vacy, of Fenton Vacy, Cornwall, Esq.

XX. Thomas Clifford of Ugbrook, county Devon, third son of Antony, served in the wars of the Netherlands. Was afterwards D.D. : ob. 1654. Married Amy, daughter and heir of Hugh Steplehill, of Bramble, co. Wilts, Esq. Two sons :

1. Hugh.

2. Thomas.

Four daughters.

XXI. Hugh Clifford of Ugbrook, took up arms for the king in the Scottish rebellion in 1659, and was colonel of a regiment of foot, but died the same year. Married Margaret, daughter of Sir George Chudleigh of Ashton, co. Devon, Bart. Two sons :

1. *Thomas*, afterwards Lord Clifford.

2. George, married Elizabeth, daughter of George Price of Esher, Surrey, and had issue George, his son and heir, Elizabeth and Margaret.

XXII. Thomas, born at Ugbrook, Aug. 1. 1650. Student of law in the Middle Temple, twice member of parliament for Totness, made a knight, served with the Duke of York in the great sea fight with the Dutch, June 5, 1665, and afterwards at Bergen in Norway. Was sent to treat with the kings of Sweden and Den-

mark. In 1666, in two other great sea-fights with the Dutch. Same year, made comptroller of his majesty's household, and sworn of the privy council. Afterwards, lord commissioner of the treasury, and in 1668, treasurer of the household. Created Baron Clifford of Chudleigh, April 22, 1672; and same year executed the office of principal secretary of state, and was made lord high treasurer, and treasurer of the exchequer. Resigned June 19, 1675, and died the same year, aged forty-three. Married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of William Martin of Linderidge, co. Devon, Esq. Seven sons:

- 1, 2, both Thomas: died infants.
 - 3, 4, Thomas, George.: died unmarried.
 - 5. *Hugh.*
 - 6. Simon.
 - 7. Charles. Eight daughters:
 - 1. Elizabeth: ob. inf.
 - 2. Elizabeth, married Henry, only son of Sir Thomas Carew of Haccombe, co. Devon, Bart.
 - 3. Mary, married Sir Simon Leech, K.B.
 - 4. Amy, married John Courtney of Molland, co. Devon, Esq.
 - 5, 6, 7, 8, Catherine, Anne, Rhoda, Isabel, died unmarried.
- XXIII. Hugh, second Lord Clifford of Chudleigh: ob. 1730. Married Anne, daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Preston of Furness Manor, co. Lancaster, Bart. Nine sons:
- 1. Francis: ob. inf.
 - 2. Thomas, married Charlotte, Countess of Newburg, and left issue two daughters: Frances, who died unmarried, and Anne, who married Count Mahoni of Naples, and was grandmother to Prince Giustiniani of Rome.
 - 3. Francis, died in Germany, aged 19.
 - 4, 5, 6, William, George, Charles: ob. inf.
 - 7. Hugh, born 1700.
 - 8. Henry: ob. cæl.

9. Lewis Walter : died young. Six daughters :
1. Elizabeth, married first, William Constable, Viscount Dunbar ; 2dly, Charles, only son of Thomas, Lord Fairfax.
 - 2, 5, Catherine and Mary, nuns at Ghent in the Netherlands.
 4. Anne, married George Cary, of Torr-abbey, co. Devon, Esq.
 5. Amy, married Cuthbert Constable of Burton-Constable, co. York, Esq. son of Francis Tunstall of Wycliff, Esq. by Cecily, daughter of John, Viscount Dunbar, who by the will of William, Viscount Dunbar, his uncle, inherited the estate, and took the name of Constable.

6. Preston, a nun at Ghent.

XXIV. Hugh, third Lord Clifford : ob. 1752. Married Elizabeth, daughter and coheir of Edward Blount of Blagdon, county Devon, Esq. (youngest son of Sir George Blount, Bart.) and sister to Mary, Duchess of Norfolk. Four sons :

1. Hugh, fourth Lord Clifford, father of Charles, now Lord Clifford.

2. Edward of Quarmore Park, near Lancaster, who died unmarried.

3. Henry : ob. inf.

4. *Thomas*, born after his father's decease.

Two daughters :

1. Elizabeth : ob. inf.

2. Mary, married Sir Edward Smythe of Acton-Burnell, co. Salop, Bart.

XXV. Hon. Thomas Clifford, born August 1732. In his youth a *mousquetaire* in the service of his most Christian majesty Louis XV. : ob. June 16, 1787. Married in 1761, Barbara, youngest daughter and coheir of James, fifth Lord Aston, who died August 2, 1786. Eight sons :

1. *Thomas Hugh*.

2. Edward James : ob. inf.

5. Henry, barrister at law: ob. 1813.

4. Walter, in holy orders, died at Palermo, 1806.

5. James Francis.

6. Arthur.

7. Lewis, twin with Arthur, died unmarried 1806.

8. George Lambert.

Five daughters:

1. Barbara-Elizabeth: died unmarried 1792.

2. Mary, married in December 1792, Charles, son and heir of Sir William Wolsey, Bart.; and died in 1811, leaving issue William Spencer, born Oct. 9, 1799.

5. Anne.

4. Lucy Bridget, married June 14, 1796, Thomas Weld of Lullworth-castle, Dorsetshire, Esq. and died in 1815, leaving issue one daughter Mary Lucy, born 1799.

5. Constantia.

XXVI. Thomas Hugh, son of the Hon. Thomas Clifford, born Dec. 1762. Created a Baronet December 27, 1814. Married in 1791, Mary Macdonald Chichester, second daughter of John Chichester of Arlington, county Devon, Esq.

One son: Thomas Aston, born May 5, 1806.

Two daughters:

1. Mary Barbara.

2. Mary Isabella.



APPENDIX.



APPENDIX.—No. I.

There is a considerable difference of opinion among the antiquaries, respecting the measures and divisions of land in Domesday-book; as well as concerning the rank of the different classes of persons then employed in agriculture. For this reason, and because the nature and history of that singular book, though often spoken of, are in general but imperfectly known; I have thought that it would not be unacceptable to the reader, to see in this place a concise account of the book itself, together with an explanation of the terms most commonly employed in it. This account is chiefly extracted from the Appendix to Nash's valuable "History of Worcestershire," compared with a MS. on the same subject, by Dr. Wilkes: which has been published by the Rev. S. Shaw, in the "General History" prefixed to his "History of Staffordshire."

The division of this kingdom into parts, must be coeval with the establishment of a regular government throughout the whole kingdom. Alfred, then, was not the first who divided England into districts or counties; mention being made of such division in the laws of Ina, and in other places. He only revived what had been done before, making many alterations and improvements; and causing a general survey of his dominions to be made in what is called the *Roll of Winchester*: perhaps from its being kept in the monastery of his foundation there, or from his making that city his favourite residence. This survey being lost,

or from the change of divisions, tenures, or property, superseded, William the Conqueror made a second very accurate survey called Domesday-book, which is in wonderful preservation at this day. It contains a survey of all the counties in England, except Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Durham, and part of Lancashire : which counties were never surveyed ; perhaps on account of the king's death, or the inroads of their neighbour Scotland ; with which kingdom they were constantly at war : and therefore the lands could not be certified to be of much value. It consists of two volumes. The first is a large folio, finely written on 582 double pages of vellum, in a small but plain character, and in double columns on each page. The second volume is a quarto, written on 450 double pages of vellum, in single columns, in a fair character, somewhat larger than that of the other volume. This contains the counties of Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk ; part of the county of Rutland is included in Northamptonshire, and part of Lancashire in the counties of York and Chester. This survey was begun in the 14th, and finished in the 20th year of the reign of William the Conqueror ; as appears from the concurrent testimony of several ancient writers, and from the following entry made at the end of the second volume, by a hand of the time, in Italian capitals : “*Anno Millesimo Octagesimo sexto ab incarnatione Domini, vigesimo vero regni Wilhelmi est facta ista descriptio non solum per hos tres comitatus, etiam per alias.*”

The Saxon Chronicle, published by Bishop Gibson, thus expresses the occasion and manner of making this survey.

“ After this, the king held a grand council, and deliberated with his nobles, in what manner, and by whom this land should be inhabited ; for this purpose, he sent his servants throughout all England, and into every county, with a power to enquire how many houses were contained in each county ; what lands and

flocks in it belonged to the king, and what subsidies it ought to pay yearly. He also authorised them to take an account how much land belonged to the archbishop, bishop, abbot, and earl : and in short, what lands and flocks belonged to each Englishman, and the value thereof in money. He ordered them to survey the lands so diligently that there should not be a *hide*, nor even a yard of land, nor indeed (what is shameful to relate, though he was not ashamed to cause it to be done) an ox, or a cow, or a hog omitted, but what should be brought into the account and delivered to him in writing.”(1)

Other authors give nearly the same account of the occasion of making this survey, and its authority : That every one being content with his own, should not with impunity encroach upon another's right ; the king's name being set down first, and then the names of the nobles according to their ranks : those namely, who held of the king *in capite*, which book is called Domesday-book ; or more correctly, as in the Saxon language, Domboc : that is, the book of judgment ; because when any dispute arose concerning any point therein contained, recourse was had to this record as decisive and unalterable. Even the Conqueror himself is said often to have yielded to the superior authority of this book, and renounced his claim. It is then deservedly called *Liber Judicatorius* : because it is the only trial of ancient demesne, against which, for the uncontroulable certainty thereof, there can be no averment, and therefore in that respect it resembles the doom and final judgment.

Commissioners were appointed by the Conqueror to make this survey in different parts of the kingdom. They had power to administer oaths, and summon a jury, which was generally of the county. Among these was Romigius, Bishop of Lincoln, Walter

(1) Chron. Sax. p. p. 188, ann. 1085.

Giffard, the earl ; *Henry de Ferrers*, and Adam, brother of Endo, the king's cup-bearer.

Selden, in his preface to Eadmerus, p. 4, speaking of Domes-day-book, says, he does not think, that in the whole Christian world, there is any public record of authority, but what is some ages later than this. Indeed, the great care taken to preserve it in the perfection in which it now is, is a sufficient proof of the consequence and importance this record was deemed to be of to the public. It was kept in the treasury, with the king's seal, under three different locks, the keys of which were in the custody of the treasurer, chamberlain, and deputy-chamberlain of the exchequer : and the book was not to be opened, but on paying a fee of 6s. 8d. In the year 1696, it was deposited among other valuable records in the chapter-house at Westminster.

Hearne, after inserting a table of the abbreviations used in this survey, in his preface to a collection of discourses of several learned English antiquaries, adds, “ I have often wished this record was printed entirely, there being no survey of any other country equal to it. The ancient Roman itineraries have been always valued, and deservedly ; yet they are trifles in comparison of this most admirable survey, done with so much exactness, and so much diligence, as would be hardly credible, were it not certain, that the Normans were resolved to make the best use of their conquest, and to secure every inch of ground to themselves.”

Nothing was however done towards such a publication, till the house of lords, in 1767, determined to publish their journals, and other public records ; when the publishing of Domes-day-book was strongly urged by several gentlemen, anxious that so valuable a record should not be entirely lost, in case of any accident happening to the original ; and who were also desirous that the public should be made acquainted with a book of

much curiosity, and some use, hitherto known only to a few. In consequence of which, the board of treasury referred the matter to the society of antiquaries, to consider whether it would be most advisable to have it printed with types, or to have a *fac simile* copy engraved from the original. Upon enquiry of many eminent printers, it was urged, that the combining and shifting types of a great variety of characters with very minute differences, would be attended with many more errors than are met with in common books ; and that a careful tracing of the original engraved on copper plates, would give the most favourable and exact copy that could be obtained. This opinion being stated to the board of treasury, their lordships ordered an estimate to be made of the expense of engraving the book ; and one was accordingly given in, amounting to upwards of 20,000*l.* which was thought much too large a sum for such a business. A resolution was therefore taken to print it at the public expence with types ; which has been completed, and serves to shew, that infinite industry, and great abilities, will get the better of almost any difficulty. It was printed by Mr. Nichols, the inventor of the types, under the direction of Mr. Farley, a very able man, who had been familiar with it, and other ancient records, for forty years. For legal purposes, Domesday-book may perhaps be consulted about ten times a year ; but for curiosity or private purposes much oftener.

Hida, a hide of land. The quantity of land under several denominations, appears to vary in the several counties in Domesday. In Leicestershire, a hyde was 12 carucates.

The *virgate*, or yard-land, was the fourth part of a hide, and contained from 15 to 40 acres.

Carucata, from *carruca*, *charrue*, a plough, consisted of as much arable land, as a team could plough and sow in a year.

This must be different in different soils: not less than 80 acres, nor more than 120. This word is often confounded with *carua* and *caruca*; and sometimes put for the same thing: owing often to the abbreviation, which the Norman scribes were very fond of: though *caruca* signifies the plough, cart, or team, and *carucata*, what we call the team's tillage. The hide also appears to have been arable land, and is considered by many as nearly synonymous with the carucate, though always in Domesday distinguished from it. Some are of opinion that the hide denoted the Confessor's measure, and the carucate that of the Conqueror. Perhaps the hide was the denomination of inclosed land, and the carucate of land lying in open field. A hide was supposed sufficient to support a house or family.

Acrea prati. As the ploughed ground is commonly measured by hide or carucate, so is the meadow land by acres.

Silva, *silvula*, and *nemus*, are the terms for woodland in this survey.

Leuca and *leuca* are synonymous, and generally understood to mean a mile. *Quarentena* a furlong, or eighth part of a mile.

Villani, villans, bondmen, though above the rank of *servi*, or *bordarii*, held their lands by base tenure, and all their property was at the will of the lord.

Villans regardant, were bound to the land as members of the manor: *Villans in gross* immediately to the person of the lord, and his heirs, and were transferable from one owner to another.

Servi. The condition of these people differed in many instances from that of the villans. They are, all through Domesday-book, distinguished from each other. Their condition varied also in the several countries of Europe at different periods. The curious reader will find a very particular account of them in “Du Fresne’s Glossary,” under the word *Servus*.

Bordarii were tenants of a less servile condition, who held a

bord or cottage, with land, on condition of supplying the lord's table with small provisions, doing his domestic work, or even any base service he might require. The condition of these men was probably much the same as that of the slaves in the West Indies, or of the peasantry in Russia, at this day.

Valet decem solidos. The shilling consisted of twelve pence, and was equal in weight to something more than three of our shillings. So that the Norman pound consisting of twenty such shillings was *3l. 2s.* of our present money.

The Saxon shilling was valued at 5d. and 48 of them went to the pound : one of their pennies being three times the weight of our silver penny. It is observable that there was no such piece of money as the shilling coined in this kingdom, till the year 1504.

The penny was anciently the only current silver coin, till about the reign of King John, or 7 Edw. I, according to others, when the silver halfpence and farthings were introduced. In the year 1550, King Edward III. began to coin large pieces, which from their size obtained the name of *groats*. Crowns and half-crowns were first coined in 1551.

In dominio est una carucata. The land in demesne was free of dane-geld, military service, and all other charges.

No. II.

The foundation, and other principal Charters of the Priory of St. Thomas.

*Ex cartis originali penes
Walt. Fowler, de St.
Thoma armig, 1680.*

1. Sciant, etc. Quod Ego Gerardus de Stafford filius Brien Dedi etc. in puram et perpetuam Eleemosynam Sancto Thomæ etc. Totam terram meam quam tenui de Episcopo Cestrensi. sc. à Kinesbroc usq: ad Withidenslad in Longum, et in Latum à via de Ticheshall usque in aquam sc. Sowe, et de aquâ quantum spectat ad illam terram. Hanc autem terram, etc. pro salute animæ meæ etc. dedi et concessi Canonicis quos Albinus Abbas de Derebi tradidit mihi ad serviendum ibidem Deo, et Sanctæ Mariæ, et Sancto Thomæ, libere, et sine subjectione alterius Domus. Illis nominatim, et omnibus illis qui cum illis et post illos ibidem Domino servient Canonicis concessi prænominationem terram solutam liberam et quietam. Ego autem ero adlocutus eorum et protector memorati Loci contra omnes, ita ut nihil auferam inde vel addam ad nocentiam Domus contra consilium Fratrum. Test. Herv. Vicecom. Ivone de Mutton, Pagano de Wastneys, Nic. de Cotes, etc.:

2. Ricardus Dei Gratiâ Coventrensis Episcopus Omnibus Hominibus tam Francis quam Anglis, tam praesentibus quam futuris Æternam in Domino salutem, Noveritis nos de consensu et assensu Capitulorum nostrorum Cov. et Lichf. pro Salute Animæ nostre, etc. et pro Salute Illustrissimi Regis Henrici II. concessisse et deditis impuram et perpetuam Eleemosynam Deo et Sanctæ Mariæ et Ecclesiæ Sancti Thomæ Martyris de Stafford et Canonicis

ibidem Deo servientibus quam nos Fundavimus Burgagium Tho. Capellani in Lichfield libere et quiete ab omni seculari Servitio in perpetuum possidendum. Concedimus etiam Ecclesiae et Canonicis prædictis ibidem Deo servientibus et in posterum servituis congruum Housbote, viz. meremium ad reparaudam Ecclesiam suam prædictam, Campanilia et omnia alia aedificia intra septa Prioratus jam aedificata etc. percipiend. de bosco nostro intra forestam sive Chaciam de Kannock, et Haybote etc. Concedimus insuper eisdem Priori et Conventui et successoribus suis Husbote etc. ad reparandam Grangiam suam de Orberton etc. Concedimus etiam eisdem mortuum boscum undecunque in toto nostro Bosco vocat le Kannock sufficienter ad comburendum intra Prioratum dictæ Ecclesiae. Concedimus etiam etc. dictis Canonicis Commune in Pasturis nostris in manerio nostro de Berkeswich cum omnibus averiis suis etc. Concedimus etiam etc. totam Aquam de Sowa à Stanford usque le Watur Wending cum quadam placea maria vocata le Kocholine et Dumetum quod jacet in longitudine inter terram et pratum nostrum de Halgh et pratum del Scepewach. His testibus Clericis nostris Willielmo Capellano etc. Et nos Prior et Capit. Ecclesiae Cathedr. Coventrens, præmissis omnibus et singulis consilium præbuimus et consensum, et quantum ad nos pertinet in perpetuum approbamus, etc. Et nos Decanus et Capit. Ecclesiae Cathedr. Lichfield, præmissis omnibus et singulis consilium præbuimus et consensum, ac ea quantum ad nos attinet in perpetuum approbamus. In quorum Testimonium Sigilla nostra fecimus his apponi. Dat. in manerio de Heywood.

5. Ricardus Dei Gratia Coventrensis Episcopus Omnibus Sanctæ Matris Ecclesiae filiis ad quos præsentes Literæ pervenerint Salutem in Domino, Justum est et sacrae Devotionis plenum ut ea quæ locis religiosis fidelium devotione collata esse noscuntur, ab autoritate Episcopali accipient firmamentum. Hinc est quod Pastorali affectione inducti Ecclesiae Sancti Thomæ Martyris de Stafford, et

Canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus et in posterum servituis, Locum illum quem de nobis Geradd de Stafford jure tenuit haereditario in quo Ecclesiam eorum ipsius Geraddi concessione fundavimus, nec non et alia sive ex nostro sive ex aliorum dono eis pietatis intuitu collata praesentis scripti autoritate confirmavimus, quae specialibus vocabulis dignum duximus exprimere. Ex dono nostro molendinum cum stagno et dumeto juxta Mulnedigh ipsi stagno adhaerente, quod quidem molendinum ipsi propriis sumptibus fecerunt. Nec non Estmoram quae est contra molen dinum ex altera parte aquae apud Bercleswich. Præterea pratum quod spectabat ad manerium nostrum de Eccleshall quod crebram inundatione aquarum saepius deperire solebat pro quo etiam memorati fratres opera sua impensa aliud pratum satis eo melius et fructuosius ad opus nostrum apud Eccleshall essarta verunt. Nec non terram nostram de Orbreton quam Mabilia et haeredes ejus de nobis tenuerunt. Item duo Burgagia in Lichfield, viz. Burgagium Thomæ Presbyteri, et Burgagium Robb. Item libertatem piscandi in Sowa et Penerigh, item congruum Husbote, Firebote, et Heibote undecunque in Bosco nostro, quiet tanciam paunagii proprietorum porcorum suorum, et communione pasturæ manerii nostri de Bercleswich. Ex dono Alani de Hagingata culturam suam juxta Kinisbroc. Ex dono Aldithæ totam terram suam de Orbreton concessione Ecclesiæ de Stafford. Ex dono Nic [Mauveysin] de Cotes septem aeras terræ in Cotes, et licentiam firmandi molendinum super Kinisbroc juxta formam Cyrographi ipsius. Ex dono Rob. de Orberton et haeredum suorum concessione domini Rob. de Stafford, et Rob. del Becc, et Ioh. de Hoptona tres aeras terræ et dimid. in Orberton et licentiam firmandi molendinum et vivarium suum Kinesbroc. Item ex dono nostro eandem licentiam. Ex dono Rogeri —— et Hernaldi de Orberton licentiam firmandi molendinum super Kinisbroc, item pratum quod eis vendidit Aldewinus filius Golde wini de feodo nostro sicut ejus Cyrographum testatur. Ex dono

Radulphi Archidiaconi domos suas in Stafford; et ex concessione Christianæ de Wulverune Hamton terram in quā illæ domus sitæ sunt, juxta formam scriptorum ipsorum. Ex dono Henrici fil. Archidiaconi Heliæ terram suam quæ est juxta prædictas domos secundum formam Cyrographi ipsius. Ex dono Stephani de Devenport et Alfewini Chese terram suam in Halegtona. Hæc itaque quæ prænominata sunt, vel quæ in posterum eis Canonice collata fuerint confirmantes sub interminatione Anathematis prohibemus ne quis eis molestiam aliquam inferre præsumat vel gravamen. Testibus Ric. Decano Lichfeld. Ecclesiæ. Alano Archidiacono Stafford. Ric. Archidiac. Salop. Magistro Rob de Haya. Magistro Galfrido de Lenton. Nigello Capellano. Andrea Giffard. Magistro Waltero de Lillesbiria. Galfrido Rectore. Ricardo Dapifero. Gilberto Yorm Camerario. Geraddo filio Brien. Willielmo Clerico de Stafford. et multis aliis.

Thomas Prior et Conventus Ecclesiæ Cathedralis Coventre, etc. Noverit Universitas Vestra nos ratas habere et acceptas Donations in omnibus Libertatibus suis quas Venerabilis Dominus Noster Ric. Coventr. Episcopus intuitu caritatis in puram et perpetuam Eleemosynam contulit Deo et Ecclesiæ Sancti Thomæ Martyris de Stafford et Canonicis ibidem Deo servientibus, quam et ipse in Dominio suo fundavit et cartarum suarum testimonio confirmavit.

4. Universis Christi Fidelibus præsens Scriptum visuris vel audituris R. Dei Gratiâ Cov. et Lichf. Episcopus salutem æternam in Domino. Privilegia dilectorum in Christo filiorum virorum Religiosorum Prioris et Conventus Sancti Thomæ Martyris juxta Stafford Inspeximus in hæc verba. Celestinus Episcopus Servus Servorum Dei, Dilectis filiis Priori et patribus Sancti Thomæ Martyris juxta Stafford tam præsentibus quam futuris regularem vitam professis in perpetuum. Quociens a nobis petitur quæ religioni et honestati convenire dinoscitur animo nos decet libenti concedere, et juxta

petentium voluntatem consentaneam rationi effectum congruum
 impetrari. Eapropter dilecti in Domino filii vestris justis pos-
 tulationibus clementer annuimus, et præfatam Ecclesiam Sancti
 Thomæ in quâ divino estis obsequio mancipati sub Beati
 Petri et nostrâ protectione suscipimus et præsentis scripti privi-
 legio communimus. Imprimis siquidem statuentes ut ordo Ca-
 nonicus qui secundum Deum et Beati Augustini regulam in
 eodem loco noscitur institutus perpetuis temporibus inviolabili-
 ter observetur. Præterea quascunque possessiones, quæcunque
 bona eadem Ecclesia impræsentiarum juste et canonice possidet,
 vel quæ concessione pontificum, largitione Regum, vel Princi-
 pum, oblatione fidelium, seu aliis justis modis Deo propicio poterit
 adipisci firma vobis vestrisque successoribus et illibata perma-
 neant. In quibus, hæc propriis duximus exprimenda vocabulis.
 Terras quas dederunt vobis Venerabilis Frater noster Ricardus Co-
 ventr. Episcopus et Geraddus filius Briu de Stafford. Terram viz.
 de Scopewas cum ripis suis, pratis, et piscaturis, et cum omnibus
 aliis pertinentiis suis, in quâ terra prædicta Ecclesia vestra sita et
 fundata est. Cistam aquæ de Kinesbroc quam dedit vobis Nic. de
 Cotes, et cæteri vicini ad quos eadem aqua pertinebat, ad facien-
 da ibidem molendina et vivaria, et septem acres terræ in Cotes ex
 dono ejusdem Nic. de Cotes. In Orberton terram quam ex
 dono Aldithæ et concessione R. Decani, et Adæ Canonici et to-
 tius capituli de Stafford habetis. In eâdem Orberton dim. virg.
 terræ, et tres acres, et selionem ex dono Rob. de Orberton. In
 ipsâ Orberton terras quas ex dono Ricardi Ermaldi et Guanini ha-
 betis. In eâdem villâ ex dono Ricardi Coventr. Episcopi homagium
 Bernardi et servicium ejus et terræ suæ. Ex dono ejusdem Pratum
 juxta Domum vestram quod ad Eccleshall olim spectabat, et ex
 alterâ parte quæ versùs Stokes totam Estmoram cum dumeto inter
 Mulnedich et aquam, et licentiam firmandi molendinum et stag-
 num super aquam de Sowe, et libertatem piscandi in Sowe et

et Peneriz et commun. pastura in manerio de Bercleswiz, et quietanciam pannagii proprietorum porcorum vestrorum in Bosco Episcopali. In Lichfield duo Burgagia ex dono ejusdem sc. R. Coventr. Episcopi, quæ fuit Tho. Presbyteri et quæ fuit Rob. Ex dono Galfridi Salvagi 4 virgatas terræ in Durandesthorp cum omnibus pertin. suis. Ex dono Symonis de Falmerisham nnam Hidam terræ in Famerisham. Ex dono Rob. de Bec et aliorum de Hopton Terram de Hethbon, et totum Black-hull et commun. pasture ejusdem villa secundum cartas eorum. In territorio de Hayeneyate unam culturam terræ juxta Kynes-broc, et aliam culturam circa Quennedale. In Iggestrond sex aeras terræ ex dono Iyonis (de Mutton) cum corpore suo. In Ricardescote pratum quod dicitur Brocage ex dono Reginaldi Gawte. In Haleton ex dono Phil. de Neugent, et Milanæ, dimid. virgat. terræ. In eâdem villâ ex dono Stephani et Phil. Dionis dim. virgat. terræ. In Aldeton mansuram et toftum cum tribus acriis terræ ex dono Rob. de Kineester. In Stafford Burgagia quæ Gerard fil. Brien, Hugo †l. Petri, Will. Bagod, W. Ursus, Adam de Greneville, Nic. de Burton, Alda de Beauchamp, dederunt vobis. Sane novalium vestrorum quæ propriis manibus vel sumptibus colitis, sive de nutrimentis animalium vestrorum nullus à vobis decimas exigere vel extorquere præsumat. Liceat quoque vobis clericos vel laicos liberos et absolutos è seculo fugientes ad conversionem recipere, et eos absq. contradictione aliquâ retinere. Prohibemus insuper ut nulli fratrum vestrorum post factam in Loco vestro professionem fas sit nisi arctionis religionis optentu de eo discedere. Discedentem vero absque communium literarum cautione nullus audeat retinere. Cum autem Generale Interdictum Terræ fuerit, liceat vobis clausis Januis, exclusis excommunicatis et interdictis, non pulsatis campanis suppressâ voce divina officia celebrare. Prohibemus insuper ne quis in vos per Ecclesiam vestram excommunicationis vel interdicti sententiam

sine manifestâ et rationabili causâ promulgare præsumat. Sepulturam præterea ipsius Loci liberam esse decernimus, ut eorum devotioni et extremæ voluntati qui se illic sepeliri deliberaverint nisi excommunicati vel interdicti sint, nullus obsistat. Salva tamen justitia illarum Ecclesiarum à quibus mortuorum corpora assumuntur. Obeunte vero ejusdem Loci Priore vel suorum quolibet successorum, nullus sub quâlibet subreptionis astutiâ seu violentiâ præponatur nisi quem fratres communi consensu aut major pars consilii sanior Dei timorem et Beati Augustini regulam providerint eligendum. Decernimus ergo ut nulli omnino hominum liceat præfatam Ecclesiam temerè perturbare, aut ejus possessiones auferre, illibatas retinere, minuere, sen quibuslibet vexationibus fatigare, sed omnia integra conserventur eorum pro quorum gubernatione ac sustentatione concessa sunt usibus omnibus profutura. Salva sedis Apostolicae autoritate, et Diocesani Episcopi Canonica justitia. Si quæ igitur in futurum Ecclesiastica secularisve persona hanc nostræ constitutionis paginam sciens, contra eam temere venire temptaverit secundo tertioe commonita, nisi reatum suum digna satisfactione correxerit potestatis honorisque sui careat dignitate, reumque se divino judicio existere de perpetrante iniquitate cognoscat, et à sacratissimo corpore ac sanguine Dei et Domini Redemptoris nostri Jesu Christi aliena fiat atq. in extremo examine districtæ ultioni subjaceat. Cunctis autem eidem Loco sua jura servantibus sit Pax dom. nostri Jesu Christi et fructum bonæ actionis percipient et apud districtum judicem præmia æternæ pacis inviant. *Amen.* Ne igitur ex malitiâ vel fraude alicujus præfatum privilegium devocetur in dubium præsenti paginæ sigillum nostrum ad æternam rei memoriam fecimus apponi.

5. Sciant, etc. qd. Ego Rob. de Ferrariis filius et hæres Dni. Will. de Ferrariis quondam Comitis Derb. Dedi et concessi, etc. in plenariâ et legitimâ potestate meâ Deo et Glorioso Martyri

Sancto Thomæ et Ecclesiæ suæ juxta Stafford et fratribus meis Fratri Nicolao Priori et Conventui ejusdem Ecclesiæ pro animâ meâ et pro animalibus antecessorum et successorum meorum ad Quietanciam dictorum fratrum meorum manerium de Sweneshurst et del Walneys juxta Saltford cum pertinentiis suis et eum molendino super Yrewell sito, stagno cursu aquæ tota secta dicti molendiui, et villam de Penilton cum omnibus villanis villenagium ipsius villæ tenentibus, et omnibus catallis et sequelis eorum. Teneнд. et Habend. sibi et successoribus suis liberè et quietè, bene et in pace in liberam puram et perpetuam Eleemosynam tam in Dominicis quam in Homagiis Servitiis et consuetudinibus, cum boscis, planis, pratis, pascuis, et pasturis, aquis, moris, mariscis, commodis, aysiamentis et rebus ad prædictum manerium et cætera prædicta pertinentibus in omnibus rebus et locis sicut Ego vel Pater meus liberius et plenius dictum manerium de Sueneshurst et del Walneys cum cæteris prædictis tenuimus. Ita quidem quod dicti Prior et Conventus et eorum successores possint sine impedimento mei vel alicujus hæredum meorum molendina et stagna construere, assertare, fossare, et undique proficuum suum de prædicto manerio cum suis pertinentiis facere, sicut Ego liberius et plenius possem si dictum manerium retinerem, quietè ab omni servicio, consuetudine, secta curiarum, et ommimodis secularibus exactionibus rebus et demandis. Nihil mihi seu hæredibus meis in prædictis inde ulterius retinendo in perpetuum præter orationes prædictorum fratrum meorum. Dedi etiam eisdem Priori et Conventui et eorum successoribus pro me et hæredibus meis in liberam, puram et perpetuam Eleemosynam Advocationem Ecclesiæ del Stowe subtus Chartley cum pertinentiis suis in perpetuum. Insuper etiam dedi dictis Priori et Conventui et eorum successoribus Husbote et Heybote ad domos sibi faciendas et reparandas tam in Capite quam in Grangijs et omnia alia necessaria in liberâ Hayâ meâ de Huttokehall sine visu Foresta-

riorum, et liberam pasturam in prædictâ Hayâ ad omnimoda Averia sua singulis anni temporibus exceptis capris. Dedi etiam et concessi prædictis Priori et conventui et eorum successoribus pro me et hæc edibus meis in liberam, puram et perpetuam Eleemosynam quod idem omnes porcos suos ex nutrimento illorum provenientes in Forestâ nostrâ de Nedwode quandocunque tempore personæ in perpetuum pacifice habeant quietos de pannagio vel in præfatâ Hayâ de Huttokeshall cum voluerint cum libero et quieto ingressu ad eandem, et agressu ab eadem sine aliquo impedimento seu aliquâ exactione vel demandâ. Et Ego vero Robertus et hæredes mei prædictum manerium cum pertinentiis sicut prædictum est, et prædictam Advocatione et cætera prædicta cum pertinentiis dictis Priori et conventui et corum successoribus contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus, acquietabimus et defendimus in perpetuum. Et ut hæc mea donatio, concessio et præsentis carte mee confirmatio robur firmitatis in perpetuum optineat præsenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. His Testibus Dominis Radulpho Basset, Iohanne de Soleney, Iohanne Wau-ton. Tho. de Arderne, Galfrido de Chetham militibus. Ada de Buri, Rog. de Penilbyri, Tho. de Pestwyk, Rog. de Verney, Will de Bockesle. Ada de Parco, Ric. Teneray, Radulpho Barri et aliis. Dat. apud Sanctum Thomam juxta Stafford in crastino Beati Thomæ Martyris Anno Dom. M cclxi.

No. III.

From the MS. of WALTER CHETWYND of Ingestrie.

TIXALL.

Trent having passed Chartley, leaves Tixall on its southern side, which, 20 Conq. Hen. de Ferrers held of Rog. de Montgomery. But in the time of Hen. 5, Paganus Wastneys, (or de Gastenois) was certified to hold a knight's fee here of the barony of Stafford. In 9 Edw. 2, Geoffrey de Wastneys was lord of it, in whose posterity it continued till 1 Edw. 4, when it fell to an heir female, Rose by name, who being married to Sir John Merston, Knt. and having no issue, they together sold this manor to Sir Thomas Littleton, Knt. one of the justices of the common pleas, as appears by the following writing, which serving to prove several descents of the Wastneys, and being of an unusual form, I have transcribed from the Original, now in the possession of Walt. Lord Aston of Tixall.

“ To all Christen men,” etc. (as printed in Dugd.’s *Origs. Juridics.*)

S^r Tho. Littleton (after y^e death of y^e aforesaid Rose) being possest of this manour left it A^o. 1481 to Johanna his widdow during her life, and after to Will. Littleton his eldest son, who taking to his first wife Helena one of y^e daughters and coheirs of Tho. Walsh of Wanlip co. Leic. esq. settled this lord^p on his issue by her, by whom he had an only daughter called Joan, who married S^r John Aston of Heywood Kt. Bannerett, and brought both Wanlip and this manour to her husband. Since which time it hath continued y^e chief seat of that family.

The Church here (now reputed a Parish Church) was formerly

a Prebend belonging to the Collegiate Church of St. Mary in Stafford. But y^e lords of y^e manor had y^e advowson as is evident by y^e Fine above recited. The Rectory is valued in y^e King's books att 8^l--oo^s--08^d.

H E Y W O O D.

Trent having received its tribute from Sow passeth Haywood Bridge, and enters y^e parish of Colwich consisting of Shutborough (before-mentioned) Colwich, Wolseley, Bishton, Morton, and Frodeswall, halfe Haywood, a part of Hixon, Lea, and Drengeton, all which are within y^e manour or leet of Haywood as are also y^e hamletts of Walton, Brockton, Stockton, Berkeswick, Action, and Bedenhall, in y^e Hundred of Cuttlesdon.

(1) Haywood (so called for that it formerly stood on one of y^e Hayes or Bounds of the Forest of Canock) was in y^e Conquerour's time divided betwixt y^e Bp. of Coventr. and Lichf. and Rog. de Montgomeri Earl of Arundell and Shrewsbury. The Bishop's part being certified att y^e Generall Survey to contain 10 carcretes of land, there being then a Preist (or Church) and a mill of 5s. with woods 2 miles in length and one in breadth valued at 40s. all which belonged to y^e church of St. Chadde in y^e time of K. Edw. y^e Confessor. The succeeding Bishops were lords thereof till y^e time of K. Edw. VI. when Richard Sampson passed it in exchange (together with Shutborough) to Will. Ld. Pagett, whose great grandson Will. Ld. Pagett hath now y^e Royalty, and certain copyhold tenants there.

In this part of Haywood lye y^e farmes of Swaynesmore, and Coley, formerly belonging to y^e Bp. and after to Will. Ld. Pagett, which falling to y^e crown by y^e attainder of Thomas Ld.

(1) Domest. Lib.

Paget (his son,) were by Q. Eliz. leased out for 5 lives (together with y^e scite of Shuthborough man^r. as is there declared) to Tho. Whitbey gent. the reversion whereof was after purchased 18 Jac. by John his son, whose grandson Tho. Whitbey of Haywood gent. is now owner of them, 1680.

The other half of Haywood (lying within y^e parish of Stow and man^r. of Chartley) is now y^e inheritance of Walter Ld. Aston, (1) the greater part thereof being purchased of Rob. de Ferrers earle of Derby by Rog. (y^e son of Ralph) de Aston, who fixed his seat here, and was y^e first of his family that had any thing to do in this county. This Roger, and Roger de Napton (of whom I have spoken in Broughton) were y^e particular favourites of Roger de Molend. Bp. of Cov. and Lich. were both advanced by him, and probably had their names from him, y^e latter being his nephew, but how y^e other was related to him I have not seen. (2) In 14 E. 1, this Roger was by y^e said Bp. made Constable of his Castle att Eccleshall. In 17 E. 1, he granted to him and his heirs severall lands and tenements in Haywood and Bishton to be held by him and his successors by y^e service of the 8th pt. of a kn^t.s fee, and 8s. of yearly rent. In 19 Edw. 1, and y^e 54 year of his consecration by another grant (wherein he is styled Dilectus Valettus suus) he gave him y^e inheritance of all those lands which sometime belonged to Philip Noell in Longdon, y^e chief guardianship of all his Parks and Hayes with the Free Chase of Canock, y^e custody of all his woods belonging to his Baronyes of Lichfield and Haywood, with Paunage for 50 swine and Common of pasture for all his beasts in all y^e aforesaid woods, (except y^e Parks and Assarts) together with 4 oakes yearly for fire, and one for timber for y^e repairing his house (all which grants were then ratified by the Prior and Convent of Coventry and Dean and Chapter of Lichfield). (3) He married Sibill y^e daughter of James de la Laund with whom

(1) Ex autog. penes Walt. Dom. Aston.

(2) Ibid.

(3) Ibid.

he had in franke marriage certain lands in Lea and Mershton (co. War.) and having also purchased divers others (besides those before-mentioned) in Haywood, Hixon, Longdon, Brockton, Handsacre, and King's Bromley, died 20 E. 2, leaving S^r John de Aston Kt. his son and heir, whose descendants very much enlarged their possessions by their marriages; (4) for by Eliz. sister and coheir of Reginald de Legh they had y^e manour of Park-hall and y^e 3d part of y^e manour of Leigh, by Joice Frevill y^e manours of Ashtede and Newdigate in Surrey, Becknore co. Wore. Yatesbury co. Wilts. Pinuley within y^e liberties of y^e City of Coventre, and y^e moities of y^e manours of Beldesert and Henley in Arden, with the advowson of the church of Preston, co War. Joan Littleton brought them y^e manour of Wanlip co. Leic. and that of Tixall in this county which hath ever since continued their principall seat; and by Elizabeth Leveson they had y^e reversion of y^e manour of Shustoke, y^e villages of Bolehall and Glascote, a moiety of Piricroft with severall messuages in Amington, Austrey, Whateley, Woodhouses, Maxstoke, Colshull, and Tamworth, co. War. The greatest part of which came after by descent to S^r Edward Aston of Tixall Kt. who att y^e time of his death (59 Eliz.) was also seized of the manours of Milwiche, Kinston, Helton, Bradnoppe, and Mathefield, in this county, and that of Edlaston co. Derb. leaving Walter his son and heir then 17 years of age, who being by K. James employed as one of his Ambassadors Extraordinary to y^e Spanish Court, to manage the intricate and mysterious treaty of marriage then depending betwixt y^e 2 Crowns, was for his good and faithful service advanced by (5)K. C. I. (28 Nov. 1627) to y^e dignity of Lord Aston of Forfare in Scotland. He purchased y^e manour of Colton in this county but sold much more of his ancient patrimony, and having married Gertrude the daughter of

(4) Inquis. 39 Eliz.

(5) Pat. Regis penes Walt. Dom. Aston.

S^r Tho. Sadler Kt. and onely sister to Ralph Sadler of Standen co.
Hertf. esq. had issue Walter Ld. Aston, who after the death of y^e
said Ralph without issue A^o. 1660 succeeded to the fair inheri-
tance of y^e Sadlers, and dying A^o. 1678 left by Mary daughter
to Richard E. of Portland, Ld. Treasurer of England, Walter
Lord Aston now living 1680.



No. IV.

Shewing the direct Descent of the late
SIR WILLIAM JERNINGHAM, BART.

CLAIMANT OF THE BARONY OF STAFFORD,

F R O M

Edmund, the first summoned Baron de Stafford,

27th Edw. I.



1. EDMUND BARON DE STAFFORD by tenure of the Castle and Manor of Stafford, granted at the Conquest, to his ancestor, Robert de Stafford.

Had Livery of the lands of his Father Nicholas Baron de Stafford, 22 Edward I. 1295.

Summoned to Parliament 27 Edward I. 1298, by the description of Edmund Baron de Stafford.

Summoned also to the several Parliaments in 28, 50, 52, 53, 54, and 55 Edward I. and in 1 Edward II.

Married Margaret, daughter and at length Heir of Ralph Lord Basset of Drayton.

Died 2 Edward I. anno 1308;—buried in the church of the Friars Minors at Stafford.

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2. RALPH DE STAFFORD, K. G. Earl and Baron de Stafford, attained 21, and received livery of his father's lands 17 Edward II. 1325.

Summoned to Parliament as Baron de Stafford, 1 and 10 Edw. II.

and in all the succeeding parliaments to the 24th of that reign : made Seneschal of Gascony 19 Edward III. and Knight of the Garter, on first foundation of the Order 23 Edward III.

Created in parliament Earl of the town and county of Stafford by patent to him and his *heirs*, dated 5 March 25 Edward III. ; and the following year constituted the king's lieutenant and captain-general in the Dutchy of Aquitaine.

Married the Lady Margaret de Audeley, sole daughter and heir of Hugh de Audeley, Earl of Gloucester, by Margaret de Clare, daughter and coheiress of Gilbert de Clare surnamed the red, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, and of his wife, Joan Plantagenet of Acres, daughter of King Edward I.

Died 31 August 46 Edward III. anno 1572, and buried at Tunbridge in Kent.

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5. HUGH DE STAFFORD, 2d son, K. G. Earl and Baron de Stafford (his elder brother, Ralph, Lord de Stafford, having died in his father's lifetime, leaving no issue by his wife the Lady Maud Plantagenet, daughter of Henry, Earl of Lancaster, grandson of King Henry III.).

Married the Lady Philippa de Beauchamp, 2d daughter of Thomas de Beauchamp 14th Earl of Warwick, by Catherine, eldest daughter of Roger de Mortimer, 1st Earl of March.

Died at Rhodes, on his return from the Holy Land, 10 Rich. II. anno 1586, and buried in the priory of Stone in Staffordshire.

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4. EDMUND DE STAFFORD, K. G. Earl and Baron de Stafford, etc. etc.

Married the Lady Ann Plantagenet, only surviving child and heir of King Edward III's youngest son, Thomas Plantagenet of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester and Earl of Buckingham, by his wife Eleanor de Bohun, who was eldest of the two daughters and coheiresses of Humphry de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex,

and Northampton, in fee, hereditary High Constable of England, and grandson and heir of the body of Lady Elizabeth Plantagenet, daughter of King Edward I. by Eleanor of Castille, his first wife.

Mary, the other daughter and coheir of Humphry de Bohun, was the wife of Henry Plantagenet Earl of Lancaster, afterwards King Henry IV. ; but on the death of her grandson King Henry the VIth. without issue, the entirety of the inheritance and honours of the house of Bohun became vested in the posterity of her eldest sister.

Slain fighting for King Henry IV. at the battle of Shrewsbury, anno 1403, and buried in the church of the Austin Friars at Stafford.

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5. HUMPHRY DE STAFFORD, K.G. Earl and Baron de Stafford, etc. and 1st Stafford Duke of Buckingham.

Made Count of the province of Perche in France, 8 Henry V. Styled, in an indenture 22 Henry VI. "The Right Mighty Prince Humphry, Earl of Buckingham, Hereford, Stafford, Northampton, and Perche, Lord of Brecknock and Holderness," etc.

Created Duke of Buckingham to him and the heirs male of his body, 25 Henry VI.

Obtained a special grant, by letters patent, 25 Henry VI. unto himself and his heirs, for precedence above all dukes whether in England or France, excepting of the royal blood.

Married the Lady Anne Nevill, 5d daughter of Ralph, 1st Nevill Earl of Westmoreland, and K. G. by his 2d wife Joan Beaufort, only daughter of John Plantagenet of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, by his 5d wife the Lady Catherine Swinford.

Slain fighting for King Henry VI. at the battle of Northampton,

anno 1460 ; interred in the monastery of Grey Friars of that town.

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6. HUMPHRY EARL OF STAFFORD, K.G. slain in the lifetime of his father, fighting for King Henry VI. at the battle of St. Albans, anno 1455.

Married the Lady Margaret Beaufort, sister and coheiress of Edmund, last Beaufort Duke of Somerset, and daughter of Edmund, Duke of Somerset, by Eleanor, daughter and coheiress of Richard de Beauchamp, 16th Earl of Warwick.

This Edmund, Duke of Somerset, was grandson and heir of John Plantagenet of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, by his before-mentioned wife the Lady Catherine Swinford ; and uncle to Margaret, Countess of Richmond, mother of King Henry VII.

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7. HENRY DE STAFFORD, K.G. Duke of Buckingham, Earl of Hereford, Essex, Northampton, Stafford, and Buckingham, Baron de Stafford, etc. and hereditary High Constable of England.

Married the Lady Catherine Widvill, daughter of Richard, Earl Rivers, by Jaquet, daughter of Peter of Luxembourg, Earl of St. Paul, and widow of King Henry Vth's brother, John Plantagenet, Duke of Bedford, and Regent of France.

The sister of this Catherine was Queen to King Edward the IVth. and mother to Elizabeth, Queen to Henry VII.

Henry, Duke of Buckingham, having been the principal agent in raising King Richard III. to the throne, was invested by that monarch with the hereditary high constabulary, and the remaining moiety of the Bohun inheritance which had been withheld by King Edward IV. since the death of Henry VI. ; but he was shortly after beheaded on a summary process at Salisbury, 1 Richard III. and attainted by act of parliament the following year.

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S. EDWARD STAFFORD, K.G. Duke of Buckingham, etc. etc. Restored to all his father's honors and estates, 1 Henry VII.

Married the Lady Eleanor Percy, eldest daughter of Henry, 4th Percy Earl of Northumberland, K.G. by Maud, daughter of Wm. Herbert, Earl of Pembroke.

Beheaded, for supposed treason against King Henry VIII. anno 1521, and attainted by act of parliament the following year.

Seised in Fee, at the time of his death, of the earldoms of Hereford, Essex, Northampton, Stafford and Buckingham, of the baronies of de Stafford and Basset of Drayton, and of the office of hereditary High Constable of England.

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9. HENRY BARON DE STAFFORD. Restored to a small portion of his father's lands, 14 Henry VIII. and in particular, to the manor of Forebridge in the county of Stafford; and in 25 Henry VIII. to the ancient baronial castle and manor of Stafford, with a certain manor called Stafford Manor and Stafford Rent; all which have descended to, and are now in possession of his lineal heir, Sir George Jerningham, Bart. claimant to the barony of de Stafford.

Restored in blood by act of parliament, 1 Edward VI. intituled,

“ An Act for the Restitution in Bloude of the Lord Stafford,” and passed on the petition of Henry Stafford himself, praying,
 “ That it maye be at the humble Petic'on of your saide subiecte
 “ ordeyned established and enacted by your Highnes with th'as-
 “ sent of the Lordes Sp'uall and Temporall and of the Com'ons
 “ in this p'nt Pliament assembled and by th'auctoritie of the same
 “ That your saide Subiect Henry Stafford and the Heires
 “ Males of his bodye maye and shal be accepted taken known re-
 “ puted called and written from hensfurth by the name of Lorde
 “ Stafford. And that the saide Henry and the Heires Males of his

“ bodye cominge shal have and enjoye in and at all Parlyaments
 “ and other places the roume name place and voyce of a Baron.
 “ And that the saide *Henry and his Heires be and shalle by*
th'auctoritie of this Act restored and enhabiled in blode as
Sonne and Heire and Heyres to the saide Edward late
Duke of Buckyngham and made Heyre and Heires to the
saide Edward late Duke of Buckyngham by the name of Lorde
Stafforde in blode.

“ And that the saide Henry and his Heires maye use and have
 “ anny action or suite and make his pedigree and conveyanncie in
 “ bloude as Heire as well to and from his saide Father as also to any
 “ other parsones or parsons in lyke manner and forme as yf the
 “ said Duke had never byn attaynted and as yf no such attayn-
 “ der were or had byn had, the corruption of blode betweene
 “ the saide late Duke and the saide Henry and his Heires or any
 “ Acte of Plament or judgement concerninge th'attaynd' of the
 “ saide late Duke or anny other thing whereby the bloude of the
 “ saide late Duke is or should be corrupted to the contrarie in
 “ any wise notw'standing So allwayes it be not to conveye the
 “ saide Henry or his Heires to any estate dignitie name prehe-
 “ minence possessions or heredytaments that were of the saide
 “ late Duke father the saide Henry *other then such as byn in this*
Act lymittid and appointed to yo' saide Subgechte.”

Summoned to Parliament as *Baron de Stafford*, from 2 Edw. VI.
 to 1 Eliz. and on a question of *precedency*, it was determined in
 a Committee of Privileges of the Lords 12 Feb. 4. and 5 Philip
 and Mary, that the Lord Stafford ranked according to the pre-
 cedency of his ancestors Barons de Stafford, from their first
 writ of summons to Parliament 27 Edward I.

Married the Lady Ursula Pole, only daughter of Sir Richard
 Pole, K. G. by Margaret Plantagenet Countess of Salisbury, daugh-
 ter and sole heir of King Edward the Fourth's brother,
 George, Duke of Clarence, by Isabel, daughter and heir of

Richard Nevill, Earl of Warwick and Salisbury and of his wife Ann Beauchamp, Countess of Warwick in her own right. Died 5 Eliz. anno 1562.

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10. EDWARD STAFFORD, Baron de Stafford. Summoned to Parliament from 25 to 45 Elizabeth.

Married the Lady Mary Stanley, 5d daughter of Edward, 3d Stanley Earl of Derby, K. G. by the Lady Dorothy Howard, daughter of Thomas, 2d Duke of Norfolk. Died 1 James I. anno 1605.

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11. EDWARD STAFFORD, Baron de Stafford. Summoned to all the Parliaments of King James I.

Married Isabel, daughter of Thomas Forrester of Tong Castle, in the county of Salop, Esq.

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12. Hon. EDWARD STAFFORD, married Ann the daughter of Sir James Wilsford, of Newnham Hall in the county of Essex, Knight.

Died in his father's lifetime, anno 1621, leaving one son *Henry*, who became Lord Stafford, and died a bachelor in the year 1637, and one daughter *Mary*, who became his sole heir.

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15. MARY STAFFORD, Baroness de Stafford. Summoned to attend the Coronation of King James II. anno 1685, as Baroness de Stafford by *descent*, and ranked according to the antiquity of the old Stafford Barony (as settled by the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords, 12 Feb. 4 and 5 Philip and Mary, in favour of her great great grandfather Henry, the restored Lord de Stafford.)

Also *Baroness Stafford* by patent 16 Charles I. so created, on her marriage with Sir William Howard, (afterwards Viscount Stafford, who was the 2d son of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundell, Surrey, and Norfolk, and Earl Marshal of England, and was

beheaded and attainted in 1680) Sir William Howard being likewise created Baron Stafford, under the same letters patent, expressed as follows:

“ Know ye that We, etc. have erected preferred and created
 “ the aforesaid William Howard and Mary his Wife *respectively*
 “ to the state degree dignity and honor of Baron and Baroness of
 “ Stafford, and the same William and Mary *respectively* Baron and
 “ Baroness of Stafford by the tenor of these presents We do prefer
 “ constitute and create; and to the same William and Mary *respec-*
 “ *tively* We have imposed given and bestowed and by these pre-
 “ sents do give and bestow the state degree dignity stile title name
 “ and honor of *Baron and Baroness* of Stafford, TO HAVE AND TO
 “ HOLD *respectively* the same state degree dignity stile title name
 “ and honor of *Baron and Baroness* to the same William and Mary
 “ and the *Heirs Male* of the bodies of the same William and
 “ Mary lawfully begotten or to be begotten, and for default of
 “ such issue, then to the *heirs* of the bodies of the same Wil-
 “ liam and Mary lawfully begotten or to be begotten.”

Mary Baroness de Stafford, after being so summoned (five years after the execution and attainder of her husband) to the Coronation of King James II. was created a countess in rank for life, and dying in the year 1695, was interred in Westminster Abbey, next to the tomb of her ancestor Eleanor de Bohun, the wife of Thomas Plantagenet of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, leaving issue

||

Henry

Henry Stafford Howard created Earl of Stafford $\frac{1}{4}$ James II. in the life-time of his Mother; at whose decease, in 1693, he succeeded to the Baronies of Stafford, (died anno 1719) s.p.

14. Hon^{ble} John Stafford, 2d Son. Married Mary daughter of Sir John Southcote, of Misham in the county of Surrey; died anno 1714.

William Stafford Howard succeeded his Uncle Henry as Earl and Baron of Stafford; and died in 1754.

John Paul Staff-
ord Howard suc-
ceeded his nep-
hew Wm. Mat-
thias, as Earl and
Baron of Stafford;
and died s.p. an.
1762.

15. Mary Stafford Howard, married Francis Plover, den. of Plowden in the county of Salop, Esq.; died anno 1765.

Lady Anastasia
Stafford Howard
Baroness de Staff-
ford as sole sur-
viving Heir of
her Brother and
Uncle; died s.p.
anno 1807.

16. Mary Plowden, only surviving child and heir;—
Married Sir George Jenningham, of Costessey
in the county of Norfolk, Bart. and died in
1785.

“ Sir WILLIAM JERNINGHAM, Bart. of Stafford Castle, and of Costessey in the co. of Norfolk.

Presented his petition of right to the King (at the death of Lady Anastasia Stafford in 1807), praying to be summoned to Parliament as Baron de Stafford :

1st. As sole Heir of the body of Edward, last Stafford Duke of Buckingham, Father to Henry, the restored Baron de Stafford ; and as such, clearly entitled (in the language of the said Act of Restitution, 1 Edw. VI.) to the description of “ *Heire to the saide Edward late Duke of Buckingham by the name of Lorde Staf-ford in Blode,* ” but, nevertheless, so as not to take “ *any estate dignitie name prehemynce possession or heredyta-ments that were of the saide late Duke, Father to the saide Henry, OTHER then such as byn in this Act lymitted and ap-pointed;* ” that is, to take the ancient Barony of Stafford, alone, of the several dignities and honours, in fee, of which the last Stafford Duke of Buckingham died seised, all which would otherwise have descended to him Sir Wm. Jerningham, the lineal Heire of the said Duke.

2dly. As sole Heir of the Body of Mary Stafford, the Wife of Sir William Howard, who was Baroness de Stafford as well by descent from her great Grandfather Henry the restored Lord, as by LETTERS PATENT 16 Charles I, creating her and her husband respectively Baron and Baroness de Stafford, to hold respectively to them and the respective Heirs of their bodies.

Married the Hon. Francis Dillon, eldest Daughter of Henry, 11th Lord Viscount Dillon, by the Lady Charlotte Lee, eldest Daughter and Coheir of Henry, Earl of Litchfield, Grandson of King Charles II. by Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland.

(196)

Departed this life, Aug. 14, 1809.

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18. Sir **GEORGE JERNINGHAM**, Baronet, the present Claimant,
the 18th in lineal descent from Edmund de Stafford summoned
to Parliament as Baron de Stafford, 27 Edw. I.



No. V.

GENEALOGICAL NOTICES
CONCERNING THE INTERMARRIAGES OF THE
A S T O N F A M I L Y.

Prope autem Sowi et Trentæ confluentes intersidet Ticks-hall, habitatio familiæ Astonorum ; quæ antiquitate snâ, et cognatione, in hoc tractu imprimis celebris.

Near the confluence of the Sow and Trent, but between those rivers, lies Tixall, the seat of the family of Aston ; which, for its antiquity and alliances, is, in those parts, particularly famous.

CAMDEN'S "Britannia."

D E L A L A U N D E. Sybilla, the wife of Roger de Aston, was daughter of Sir James de la Launde, Knt. who granted certain lands to the monastery of Benedictine nuns at Henwood, in Langdon, co. Warw. which was founded by his ancestor Kettelburne, of Langdon, in the reign of Henry I. She brought him lands in Lea and Merston, in the county of Warwick.

W O L S E L Y. A remarkable instance of a family residing at the same place under the same name, for more than six centuries.—From Edric, who lived at Wolseley in the time of William Rufus, descended Richard de Wolseley, who 25 Edw. I,

married *Sybilla, daughter of Roger de Aston*, who gave her all his lands in Bishton, in frank marriage, by a deed witnessed by Henry Mauveysin, Knt. and John de Colwich.⁽¹⁾ These lands have remained with the family to this day. In the reign of Edward IV. Ralph Wolsey, one of the barons of the exchequer, married Margaret, widow of Robt. Kinnardsley of Loxley, and *daughter of Sir Robert Aston, Knt.* From them descended Sir Robert Wolsey, who was created a baronet, 4 Car. I. His son Sir Charles Wolsey, represented the county of Stafford in parliament, in 1654 and 1656, and was in great favour with the Protector. He wrote a book intitled “Justification Evangelical,” and other works. He had 7 sons and ten daughters; and died in 1714, aged 85. Richard his sixth son, who was his heir, married an heiress in Ireland, and settled one of his younger sons in that country, who was afterwards made a baronet. Elizabeth, his eldest daughter, was married to Robert Somerville of Edstone, co. Warwick, Esq. whose eldest son Wm. Somerville, author of the “Chace,” was born at Wolsey, Sept. 2, 1675.⁽²⁾ Sir Charles, the present baronet married first Mary, daughter of the late Hon. Thomas Clifford, and *grand daughter of James, fifth Lord Aston*, by whom he has one son living, Spencer William, born Oct. 1799; 2dly, Anne, second daughter of Antony Wright, Esq. by whom he has issue.

MALVEYSIN. A very ancient family of Norman extraction, settled at Mavesyn Ridware, co. Stafford, whence its name. (See a very learned and interesting account of the Mavesyns in Shaw's History of Staffordshire, vol. i. from the pen of Mr. Chadwick, their descendant.)

(1) Chetwynd MS.

(2) Colwich Register.

LEIGH. The parish of Leigh was a dependency of the abbey of Burton upon Trent, and was held by Robertus Filius Veneti, in the reign of Henry I. in fee farm, paying 4*l.* per ann. to the abbot. His great grandson Philip de Leigh had a son Robert, who was sheriff of Stafford, 12 Hen. 5.; but died without issue. His estates were then divided among the three sisters of his father Philip. Helen, the second, married Hugo of High Leigh, co. Salop, and had a third part of Leigh for her portion. Their great grandson Richard de Leigh, (11 Edw. 5.) had a son Reginald, who died s. p. and two daughters, coheiresses : *Elizabeth, who married Sir Thos. Aston,* and had a third part of Leigh, and the mansion of Park-hall, co. Stafford ; and Joan, who married Thos. de Gattacre, co. Salop, and inherited High Leigh. Elizabeth bore for High Leigh, *Argent, a fess with two pellets in chief, sable.* For Leigh, *Gules, fretty of ten pieces or, a fess sable.* This latter coat of arms is blazoned in the highest pane of the great west window of Leigh church. In consequence of this marriage the Astons resided much at Park-hall, till they became possessors of Tixall. The old mansion does not now exist; a farm-house appears to have been erected on the scite, and is surrounded by a moat, over which is thrown a handsome stone-bridge. In the windows of this house are preserved a few panes of stained glass belonging to the old mansion, exhibiting ancient coats of arms of the Aston family, with their early quarterings.

FREVILE. The family of Freviles, says Dugdale, was anciently settled in the county of Cambridge, and though but one of them had ever summons to Parliament, was of eminent note, some ages before that time, and since. The first he makes mention of is, Baldwin de Frevile, who in 15 Hen. 5, obtained the wardship of Lucia, daughter and heir of Richard de Scalers, and soon after made her his wife: and in 50 Hen. 5, upon collection of the aid for marrying the king's daughter, he paid 15*l.* for 15 knights' fees.

which were of her inheritance. Their grandson, Alexander, had summons to Parliament, as a baron of the realm, 1 Edw. 5, and was engaged in all the Scottish wars under Edward I. and II. His wife, Joan Cromwell, was a very great heiress : being daughter and heiress to Ralph, Lord Cromwell, and Mazera Marmion, one of the heiresses of Sir Philip Marmion. She was also one of the heirs of Isabella, daughter and coheiress to Hugh de Kilpeck. By her, Alexander de Frevile obtained, besides large estates, Tamworth-castle, the ancient seat of the Marmions. His grandson, Baldwin, married first, Eliz. de Montfort, also a great heiress, who brought him the castle of Beldesert, near Henley in Arden, co. Warwick. This Baldwin de Frevile was in great esteem with the Black Prince, and for his approved fidelity and service, was made by him 38 Edw. 3, his seneschal of Saintonge and Gascony, for life. In 1567, he was of the expedition into Spain, under the Black Prince, in behalf of Peter the Cruel, and at the battle of Naiara, fought in the prince's battalion. His name occurs in almost all the battles and skirmishes which took place in France during that warlike period, and particularly in that where Sir John Chandos was so unfortunately slain. (See Barnes's History of Edward III. b. 4, pp. 723, 765, 64, 76, 84, 804, 15, 18, 52.) He married 2dly, Ida Clinton, and 5dly, Joan, daughter of Lord Strange, and died 49 Edw. 3. Sir Baldwin de Frevile, his son, by Elizabeth Montfort married first, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Botetourt, and she dying without issue, he married 2dly, Joyce, her sister, who after the death of her only brother, became the heir of her father. This Sir Baldwin exhibited his claim to be the king's champion on the day of the coronation, 1 Rich. 2, 1577, as being the possessor of Tamworth-castle, which service the Marmions, anciently lords thereof, from whom he was descended, had performed. But Sir John Dymock, his competitor, carried it by judgment of the Constable and Earl

Marshal of England, in regard of the lordship of Scrivelsby in Lincolnshire, which did appear to be held by that service : and that the Marmions enjoyed that office as owners thereof, and not of Tamworth-castle. This lordship of Scrivelsby descended to Dymock, by the daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Ludlow, who was husband of Joan, youngest daughter of Sir Philip Marmion. The Dymocks still possess Scrivelsby, and exercise the office of champion. The last male of the Freviles, was another Baldwin, grandson of this Sir Baldwin, who died unmarried : when all the great Frevile estates devolved to his three sisters, and coheiresses, Elizabeth, Joyce, and Margaret. Elizabeth, the eldest, married Thomas, second son of William, fifth Lord Ferrers of Groby, and brought him in marriage the castle and manor of Tamworth, with other estates : Margaret, the youngest married first, Sir Hugh Willoughby, Knt. from whom the present Lord Middleton is descended ; and 2dly, Sir Richard Birmingham, Knt. : *Joyce, the second daughter, married Sir Roger Aston, Knt.* and inherited the manors of Ashted, and Newdigate, co. Surrey; Bicknor, co. Worc.; Yatesbury, co. Wilts, Pinley within the liberties of Coventry, and the moiety of the manor of Henley in Arden, with the manor and castle of Beldesert, co. Warw. and the advowson of the church of Preston *juxta Henley*.

- Quarterings of Joyce de Frevile, wife of Sir Roger Aston, Knt.
1. Scalors or Scales. Gules, six escallops, argent.
 2. Cromwell. Argent, a chief gules, a bend azure.
 3. Kilpeck. Gules, a sword argent.
 4. Marmion. Vairy, a fess gules.
 5. Montfort. Bendy of 10, or, and azure.
 6. Botetourt, or, a saltier engrailed, sable.
 7. De la Zouche.
 8. Beauchamp, Baron of Bedford.
 9. Somery, Baron of Dudley. Or, two lions passant, argent.
 10. Fitz-Ansculph.

11. Paganel.
12. Chaucumbe. **Or**, a chief purpure, a pale, gules.
13. Frevile. **Or**, on a cross flory, gules, five lozenges vairy.
Also, gules, three crescents, ermine.

SCALES. Richard de Scales, or Scalers, father of Lucia Frevile, was the son of Hardouin de Scales, one of the valiant Normans, who accompanied the Conqueror in his expedition into England. In reward of his services, he obtained the manor of Widihall, co. Herts, where he resided, and many other Manors in that county, and was made baron by tenure. Dying without issue male, a great part of his property devolved on Hugh, second son of Hardouin, whose descendant Thomas, Lord Scales, was delivered up to the Yorkists in 1460, after the battle of Northampton, and was by them put to death. His daughter and heir was married to Antony Woodville, Earl Rivers, brother to Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. who in her right was summoned to parliament as Lord Seales. His near connexion with the young princes, sons of Edward IV. made him obnoxious to Richard III.; he was assassinated, and all his lands were seized by that crafty and ambitious tyrant.

MARMION. Robert Marmion, Lord of Fontenay, in Normandy, and hereditary champion to the dukes thereof, came over with William the Conqueror, who made him a grant of the castle of Tamworth, and the adjacent territory. This transaction was recorded in painted glass, on an ancient window, in Tamworth church, which still existed in the time of Dugdale. The king, with his crown and robes of state, was represented standing before the gate of a castle, and presenting the charter and a sword to Marmion.

He hailed him Lord of Fontenay,
Of Lutterward and Scrivellbaye,
Of Tamworth tower and town.

SCOTT'S MARMION.—CANTO I.

He had issue Robert, his son and heir, to whom King Henry I. by his charter, dated at *Cannock, co. Stafford*, granted free warren in all his lands at Tamworth, and elsewhere, in the co. Warwick, as his father had before him. This Robert, being a great adversary to the Earl of Chester, in 8 Stephen, entered the Priory of *Coventry*, near unto which the said earl had a castle, and drove out the monks. He then fortified it, making in the fields adjacent, divers deep ditches lightly covered over, with the intent that such as made approaches thereto might be entrapped : but it so happened, that as he rode himself to view the earl's forces that began to draw near it, he fell into one of them, and broke his thigh ; so that he was forthwith seized on by a common soldier, who immediately cut off his head. Robert, his son and heir, died 2 Henry 3, leaving three sons, two that bore the name of Robert, and William. From Robert the younger, sprung a race which flourished in Lincolnshire for many generations after the elder branch of the Marmions was extinct. Robert, the elder, was obliged, 17 Hen. 3, to retire into Normandy, in order to preserve his possessions there ; on which account, he left the management of his estates in England, together with the guardianship of Philip, his son and heir, to the celebrated Peter de Rupibus, Bishop of Winchester. Peter having been appointed grand justiciary and regent of the kingdom by King John, during an expedition which that prince made into France, he so disgusted the whole nation by his arbitrary proceedings, that the king found it necessary at his return to dismiss him from all his employments, and banish him out of the kingdom. The guardianship of Philip, and his estates, then devolved to Wm. de Cantelupe, a powerful baron, who being also guardian to the two daughters and coheirs of Hugh de Kilpeck, of Kilpeck-castle, co. Hereford, married Joan, the youngest daughter to Philip Marmion, whose father was dead. This Sir Philip Marmion was constituted, 53 Hen. 3, sheriff for

the counties of Warw. and Leicest. which office he held for three years. In 57 Hen. 5, he attended the king into Gascony, and in 41 Hen. 5, was of an expedition then made into Wales. In 45 Hen. 5, the defection of many of the barons having farther shewed itself by their placing sheriffs in sundry shires of the realm, in usurpation of the king's authority, this Philip, in whose fidelity the king reposed much confidence, had by a special patent, the counties of Suffolk and Norfolk committed to his custody, with the castles of Norwich, and Oxford. Soon after this, divers of the barons having put themselves in arms to force the king's assent to those unreasonable ordinances which they had made at Oxford, tending much to the diminution of his royal authority, the king was necessitated to submit to the decision of the King of France, and to bring in divers peers, and other eminent persons, to give oath for his performance thereof, amongst whom this Philip was one: who still strongly adhering to his sovereign, attended him with all the force he could raise at the taking of Northampton, the ensuing year. He was with him likewise at the fatal battle of Lewes, where the king was taken prisoner, and his whole army lost. For his fidelity in these trying occasions, Marmion obtained, 50 Hen. 5, after the king got again into power, a grant of all the royal demesnes in Tamworth, and Wigginton, to hold during his natural life, and was made governor of Kenilworth-castle. He died 20 Edw. 1, leaving four daughters coheiresses; three the issue of this marriage with Joan de Kilpeck, and one by Maria, a 2d wife. Joan, the eldest, married Wm. Mortein, and died without issue, 25 Edw. 1. Mazera, the second, married Ralph, Lord Cromwell, and had an only daughter Joan, who inherited great estates from Marmion and Cromwell, which she brought in marriage to Alexander, Baron de Frevile, as is related above.

CROMWELL. Haldoenus was Lord of Cromwell, co. Notts, in the time of William the Conqueror. From him descended Ralph de Cromwell, who was constituted, 5 Hen. 5, a justice itinerant

in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham and Derby, and was possessed of 19 knights' fees. His son Ralph was engaged in divers expeditions in Gascony, and Scotland, during the reign of Edward I. He married 1st, Margaret, one of the sisters and coheiresses of Roger de Someri, by whom he had no issue: 2dly, Mazera Marmion, by whom he had an only child, Joan, above-mentioned, the wife of Alexander, Baron de Frevile.

STRANGE of Blackmere. It is said, that at a just held at Castle Peverell, in the Peak of Derbyshire, where among other persons of note, Owen, Prince of Wales, and a son of the king of Scots, were present; there were also two sons of the Duke of Britany, and that the younger of them, whose name was Guy, remaining in England, was called Guy Le Strange, (or the foreigner) from whom all the different families of Strange are descended. (1) John Le Strange, supposed to be the third son of this Guy, was sheriff of Salop, and Staff. 18 John; and held the castle of Knockyn, co. Salop. He died 11 Hen. 5. John his son and heir was also sheriff of Salop and Staff. and one of the lords of the Marches in Wales. He died 53 Hen. 5. This last-named John had two sons: John, the eldest, was the head of the Stranges of Knockyn, which line, 17 Edw. 4, ended in a daughter, Joanna, who by her marriage with George, eldest son of Thomas Stanley, first Earl of Derby, carried the barony of Strange to that family. Robert, the second son, by his marriage with Eleanor, one of the four sisters and coheirs of William of Whitchurch in Shropshire, became seized of that manor, and died 4 Edw. 1. John his son and heir, was called Le Strange of Blackmere, from a large mere adjoining his manor-house of Whitchurch, so called from the dark colour of its water. He died unmarried, and was succeeded by Fulk his brother, who was summoned to parliament as a baron of the realm, from 2 to 17 Edw. 2, in which year he died. He married Eleanor, daughter and coheir of John Giffard of Brimsfield,

(1) Dug. Bar. vol. 1. p. 663.

by Maud, widow of Wm. Longespée, Earl of Salisbury, who was daughter and coheir of Walter, Lord Cliford, of Clifford-castle, co. Hereford. John, the son of Fulk and Eleanor, married Ankaret, one of the daughters and coheirs of Wm. Boteler of Wemme, and appears to have been the father of Maud, *the wife of Baldwin de Frevile*. The line of Strange of Blackmere, ended 7 Ric. 2, in a female, the grand daughter of John and Ankaret, who was married to Sir Richard Talbot, Knt. Thus was the barony of Strange brought into the family of Talbot, till by the marriage of Alitheia, daughter, and at length sole heir of Gilbert, seventh Earl of Shrewsbury, (who died in 1616) with Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundell, it passed into the Howard family, and by the coheirs thereof, is in abeyance between the Lords Stourton and Petre.

MONTFORT. The family and name of Montfort were of French origin. Robert I. King of France, who died in 1050, had an illegitimate son called Almaric, or Amaury, to whom he gave the town of Montfort, which is still called Montfort-Amaury, and from which Almaric assumed the sirname of De Montfort, which he transmitted to his posterity. One of them, Hugh de Montfort, accompanied William, Duke of Normandy, into England, and fought by his side in the famous battle of Hastings. He was commonly called "Hugh with the beard;" the Normans at that time being generally shaved; and was afterwards appointed, with Fitz-osborne, Earl of Hereford, and Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, to administer justice through the whole kingdom. Hugh de Montfort was amply rewarded for his services ; for he possessed in Kent, Essex, Norfolk, and Suffolk, 114 lordships. He lost his life in a duel with Walcheline de Ferrers, leaving issue Hugh, his son and heir, who by his first wife had two sons, Robert and Hugh, who both died without issue. Their father, who afterwards became a monk in the abbey of Bec, in Normandy, had by a second wife,

a daughter, Alice de Montfort, who married Gilbert de Ghent, Earl of Lincoln, nephew to Queen Matilda, wife of the Conqueror. This great earl is said to have had 15½ lordships in England. Gilbert and Alice had a son, called Hugh, who from his mother, she being so great an heiress, assumed the surname of Montfort. This Hugh de Montfort married Adelina, daughter of Robert de Bellomont, Earl of Mellent, and Leicester, by Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh, the great Earl of Vermandois, third son of Henry I. King of France, and great grandson of Hugh Capet. He left two sons: Robert, who died without issue, and Thurstan, who built Beldesert-castle near Henly, co. Warw., which continued to be the chief seat of his descendants, for many generations, and afterwards devolved to the Aston family, being part of the portion of Joyce de Frevile. His great grandson was the famous Peter de Montfort, who for some years was in great favour with his sovereign, King Henry III. and was employed by him in many offices of high trust, and emolument, both in peace and war. He attended the king into France, and marched with Prince Edward into Wales; and was made warden of the Marches, and governor of several castles. But in 46 Hen. 5, being suspected of favouring the rebellious barons, he was prohibited by the king from fortifying his castle of Beldesert. Nor were these suspicions ill-founded: for no sooner had these powerful rebels assembled at Oxford, than they forced the king's assent to their unreasonable ordinances, and chose 24 persons, by whom the kingdom should be governed. Among these 24, Peter shewed himself one of the most forward: for when all the rest of them, except himself and four others, were content that those ordinances should be made void, and the king restored to his former power, he joined with the most violent of them in opposing it. The same year he was in arms against the king at Northampton, and when the town was stormed by the royalists, he fled to the castle; but was forced

to surrender himself next day with his two sons, Peter and Robert, who were all three sent prisoners to Windsor-castle. They did not however remain long in confinement; for on the 14th of May following, happened the fatal battle of Lewes; where, owing to the great eagerness of Prince Edward, in pursuing too far that brigade of the barons' army which he had routed, the day was lost, and the prince himself, the king, and many noble persons, were made prisoners. Peter, and his two sons, were forthwith set at liberty. Shortly after this victory, the rebellious barons agreed among themselves that nine persons should be selected to exercise regal power. Peter de Montfort was one of these nine; and they constituted commissioners to the King of France and to the Pope's Legate, to reform (as they termed it) and settle the kingdom. In this commission there was a more special power given to Peter de Montfort than to any of the rest; as it was declared that whatsoever he should swear to do, the king must be obliged by it. Besides these eminent trusts, he was constituted in Dec. 1264, governor of Whittington-castle in Shropshire, and of Hereford-castle. To this castle in May 1265, the king and prince were removed: and De Montfort issued a precept to Walter Devereux, then sheriff of Herefordshire, for the delivery of the revenues of that county to him, for better strengthening the castle: he obtained also for his own accommodation, a grant of Prince Edward's apartments at Westminster.

Peter de Montfort was now arrived at the pinnacle of his greatness, which was however soon to be overthrown: for not many days after, Prince Edward made his escape from Hereford-castle, "like a sudden flash of lightning (says Dugdale) breaking through a cloud;" and raising a powerful army, fell like terrible thunder on the principal force of the rebellious barons, then lying at Evesham in Worcestershire, and obtained a complete victory. Peter de Montfort, and divers of the principal actors in that tra-

gedy, were left dead on the field. By the decree called the “ Dictum of Kenilworth,” the property of the Montforts was restored to them ; and the greatest part of it afterwards devolved to Elizabeth, great grand-daughter of Peter de Montfort, who married Baldwin de Frevile.

BOTETOURT. John de Botetourt, 22 Edw. 1, was admiral of the fleet which conveyed that king into Gascony ; and was also engaged in the wars of Scotland. He wedded Maud, sister and heiress of Otto, son and heir of Beatrice de Beauchamp, and had livery of the lands of her inheritance. In 1312, 5 Edw. 2, he was leagued with Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in seizing Piers Gaverston, a measure which was soon followed by the execution of that favourite. He was again admiral of the fleet, 8 Edw. 2. He was summoned to parliament as Baron Botetourt, from 1 Edw. 2, to his death. His son Thomas married Joan, one of the sisters and coheiresses of John de Somery, Baron of Dudley, whereby a great inheritance came to his posterity. They had issue John, who married Joyce, heiress of Hugh de la Zouch, of Ashby ; by whom he had a son John, who died in his father's life time, leaving Joyce, his only child, his heir, who married Sir Hugh Burnell, Knt. but died without issue in 1405. The barony of Botetourt was then in abeyance between the sisters of John, her father : of whom Joyce, the eldest, was wife of Sir Baldwin de Frevile. In the last century, Charlotte, Baroness Ferrers, (wife of George, Viscount Townshend) claimed the barony of Botetourt, as descended from Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Baldwin de Frevile ; but, having proved her descent before the lords, she waved her right in favour of Norborne Berkeley, lineally descended from the second sister of John de Botetourt. *The daughters of James, fifth Lord Aston, had also a right, as descended from Joyce, second daughter of Sir Baldwin de Frevile ; but no claim being put in on their behalf, that of Norborne Berke-*

ley was allowed, and in 1764, he was summoned to parliament as Baron Botetouri. He died in 1770 without issue, when the barony of Botetourt devolved to his sister, the Dowager Duchess of Beaufort.

BEDFORD Barony. Hugh de Beauchamp came into England with the Conqueror, who bestowed upon him 45 lordships in Bedfordshire, besides other lands elsewhere. His son Paganus, or Pain, obtained from Wm. Rufus, the barony of Bedford. From him descended William, who lived in the reign of Henry III. and left three sons : Simon, whose only child Joan de Beauchamp died without issue, and William and John, who died also without issue. The three daughters of William, Maud, Ela, and Beatrice, then became his heirs, and with their descendants the barony of Bedford is in abeyance. These descendants are very numerous. Maud, the daughter, and at length sole heiress of Beatrice, married John de Botetourt, and their descendant Joyce, daughter and coheiress of Sir John Botetourt, carried the claims of Beatrice into the family of Frevile.

SOMERY. At the time of the Conqueror's survey, Ralph Paganell held 45 lordships in different counties in England. Fulk Paganell, his son and heir, possessed a great part of the lands of Wm. Fitz-Ausculph, probably by marrying his daughter. This William, in the time of the Conqueror, possessed 91 lordships in various counties, together with Dudley-castle, which was his principal seat. Ralph Paganell, son of Fulk, was possessed of Dudley-castle. He had a son Robert, and a daughter Hawise. But Robert dying without issue, Hawise then became his heir. She was first married to John de Somery, of the county of Cambridge. Dudley, and other lands of great extent went to Ralph de Somery, her son and heir. His heir was Roger his second son, who married Amabil de Segrave, daughter and heiress of Robert de Chaucumbe. Roger, their eldest son, had two sons,

Roger and John, who died without issue; and two daughters, who thus became his heirs; Margaret, wife of John de Sutton, and Joan, wife of Thomas Botetourt.

GREENE. Sir Henry Greene the elder, purchased Norton, near Towcester, in Northamptonshire, 27 Edw. 5. For his great wisdom, abilities, and knowledge, he was advanced to the office of lord chief justice of England, and with his large possessions in Northamptonshire, left to his posterity one of the most considerable estates of that age.—(Brydge's Northampton, vol. 2, p. 246.) His grand daughter Joan, was wife of Sir Baldwin de Frevile, and the *mother of Joyce de Frevile, who married Sir Roger Aston*. The eldest branch of this family ended in Sir Thomas Greene, Knt. who died 22 Hen. 7, and left two daughters and coheiresses, Anne, married to Lord Vaux of Harrowden; and Maud, wife to Sir Thomas Parr, and mother of Queen Catharine Parr.

The arms of Greene are *Azure, three stags tripping, Or.*

BRERETON. This very widely spreading family is to be traced to Brereton in Cheshire, which manor was held by them under the barony of Kinderton, nearly from the Conquest till the death of Francis, Lord Brereton, in 1722, whose ancestor had been created Lord Brereton of Leighlin, in Ireland, in 1624. From Randal, a younger son of Sir William Brereton, by Helen, heiress of Malpas, descended the Breretons of Malpas, extinct in 1611; and those of Ashley, extinct in 1660; from the Breretons of Malpas, who were also of Ipstones, in Staffordshire, descended the Breretons of Eccleston, and Wetenhall; those of Tatton, extinct about 1600, those of Honford, extinct by the death of Sir Thomas Brereton, Bart. in 1678, and several others. Sir William, younger son of Sir Randal Brereton, of Malpas, was groom of the chambers to Queen Ann Boleyn; and in 1535, lost his life on the scaffold for supposed criminality with his unhappy mistress. Sir Wm. Brereton, knight of the shire for Cheshire, was appointed by the par-

liament in 1645, to the command of their forces in that county, and in June 1644, was made Major-General of Cheshire. (1)

DRAYCOT. Sir Roger Draycot, who married *Joan Aston*, and was a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, was descended from Sir Philip Draicote, justice of Chester, 23 Hen. 5; whose ancestor Nicholas, was Lord of Draycot, in the reign of William the Conqueror. From Roger Draycot, and Joan Aston, descended Richard Draycot of Painsley-hall, Esq. whose only daughter and heir Frances, married Marmaduke, Lord Langdale, who died in 1718. His son, the last Lord Langdale, died about 1777, without issue male, when his three daughters became his heirs: Elizabeth, relict of Robert Butler, Esq. of Ballyragget in Ireland, who has no issue; Mary, married to Charles, late Lord Stourton, by whom she had William, the present Lord Stourton, and many other children; and Apollonia, who married Hugh, fifth Lord Clifford of Chudleigh, and died without issue.

DELVES. John de Delves, was seated at Delves-hall near Uttoxeter, co. Stafford, 51 Edw. I. His son Richard was constable of Heleigh-castle. Richard had two sons, John and Henry. John was a knight of great renown, and one of the four esquires who attended James, Lord Audley, at the battle of Poitiers, where they performed prodigies of valour: of which an interesting account is given in Froissart's Chronicles. He died without issue, 11 Ric. 2, 1587, and was succeeded by his brother Sir Henry, whose son and heir Sir John Delves, 16 Rich. 2, was knight of the shire for the county of Stafford, with Sir Thomas Aston. From him descended *Sir John Delves, father of Elizabeth, wife of John Aston, Esq.* He was a particular favourite of King Henry VI., and repaying the king's attachment by the most faithful adherence, was slain when fighting bravely in his cause, at the battle

(1) Lysons's Cheshire, pp. 373, 481, 309.

of Tewkesbury, 1471. His son, with various persons of distinction, sought refuge in the abbey, whither they were pursued by the furious King Edward, who with his drawn sword, endeavoured to force his way into the church; but was refused admittance by a resolute priest, till he had promised to pardon those who had fled to the sanctuary. Depending on the king's word, they neglected the means of escaping, and two days afterwards, were drawn out and beheaded by the command of the relentless monarch. Sir Thomas Delves, the last male of the family, was created a baronet. His daughter, and sole heir Elizabeth, about the year 1710, married Sir Brian Broughton, Bart. and brought Dodington and other estates into the family. From him is descended the present baronet Sir John Delves Broughton. The arms of Delves are *Argent, a chevron gules fretted Or, between 3 Delves sable.* The chevron was part of the arms of Audley, given to Sir John Delves, by Lord Audley, for his bravery at the battle of Poitiers.

BAGOT. This is a family of great antiquity, and appears to have been settled at Bagot's Bromley, before the Conquest. In the reign of Richard I. Harvey Bagot, a younger son, married Milicent, sister and heir to Robert de Stafford; and taking the name of Stafford, was the progenitor of the illustrious line of the Barons and Earls of Stafford, and Dukes of Buckingham, now represented by Sir George Jerningham, Bart. About the time of Edward II. Sir Ralph Bagot, Knt. married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Richard, Lord of Blithfield, which has been ever since the principal residence of the Bagots. Their grandson, Richard Bagot, married Isabella, daughter of Sir Robert Aston, Knt. from whom the present Lord Bagot is descended. One of his ancestors, Sir Harvey Bagot, Bart. was created a baronet 3 Car. 1. (For further particulars see Collins's Peerage.)

BIDDULPH. Richard Biddulph, of Biddulph in Staffordshire,

the husband of Petronilla Aston, was descended from Ormus, Lord of Darlaston, in the reign of William the Conqueror. Francis, their grandson, married Isabella, daughter to Sir Thomas Giffard of Chillington, Knt. and built in the time of Queen Elizabeth, a fine and stately house of stone at Biddulph. From them is descended John Biddulph, of Burton in Sussex, Esq. who is still Lord of Biddulph.

BASSET of Blore. John Basset, who married *Elizabeth Aston*, died without issue. He was descended from Thurstan Basset, who came over with the Conqueror, whose son Ralph was chief justice of England. His father William was sheriff of Stafford, and 6 Edw. 4, married Joan, eldest daughter and coheir of Richard Byron. Margery, his other daughter and coheir, was wife to Thomas Walsh of Wanlip, co. Leicester, Esq. and their daughter Helen, the wife of Sir William Littleton, Knt. was mother to *Joan Littleton, the wife of John Aston*.

BLOUNT of Burton. Thomas Blount of Burton, and Blounts'-hall, near Uttoxeter, who married *Catherine Aston*, was descended from John Blount, third son of Sir W. Blount, Knt. who had lands in Burton, and Rolleston, 10 Rich. 2. Edward Blount, their grandson, died without issue, when his property reverted to Elizabeth, daughter and heir to Walter Blount, younger brother to Thomas. She married Thomas Pope, who took the name of Blount. Their son, Sir Thomas Pope Blount, was the founder of Triuity College, Oxford, where he and his wife, and his mother Elizabeth, are interred: he died in 1558. From them descended Sir Thomas Pope Blount of Tittenhanger, co. Herts, who published in 1690 a work much esteemed, entitled “*Censura Celebriorum Authorum*.” (1)

(1) Adam Blount temp. Edw. 1, and Hugo his son, 9 E. 2, were Lords of Penkridge, co. Staff.

COLWICH. The ancestor of George Colwich, *who married a sister of John Aston, Esq.* was seated there in the time of Richard I. John de Colwich was witness to a deed 25 Edw. 1.—(See Wolseley above.)—Edward, the son of George, left Elizabeth, an only daughter and heir, who married, 1 Philip and Mary, Peter Leicester of Nether Tabley, co. Chester, Esq. and brought him three daughters and coheirs, who sold their estate at Colwich, to Sir Robert Wolscley, Bart. about the year 1634.—(Leicester's Cheshire, p. 558.)—Arms of Colwich: *Argent, a fess between 5 rere mice displayed, sable.*

LITTLETON. For an account of this family see note F. p. 140.

Principal quarterings of Joan de Littleton, wife of Sir John de Aston, Knt. :—

1. Fitzwarine.
2. Dinant.
3. Somery. *Or, two lions passant, argent.*
4. Quatremain. *Gules, a fess, azure, between 4 hands, Or.*
5. Grey de Rotherfield.
6. Bardolph.
7. Hanselyn.
8. Warren and Surrey. *Checky, or and azure.*
9. Wirmay.
10. Westcote. *Argent, a bend cotized, sable, within a bordure engrailed; gules bezantee.*
11. Burley. *Barry of six, sable, and or, on a chief of the second two pallets of the first, within an inescutcheon argent, charged with three bars, gules.*
12. Grendon. *Argent, two chevrons, gules.*
13. Walsh. *Gules, two bars gemells, and a bend, argent.*
14. Wanlip.
15. Waldeive. *Or, three leopards' heads, sable.*
16. Whitacre. *Sable, three lozenges, argent.*

17. Byron. Argent, three bendlets enhanced, gules.
18. Clayton.
19. Banastre. Argent, a cross flory, sable, in fess point a bezant.
20. Colewick.
21. Peche. Gules, a fess between six cross crosslets, argent.
22. Hayward.
23. Huntingfield. Or, a fess gules, between 5 torteauxes, argent.
24. Arden. Ermine, a fess chequy, or, and azure.
25. Walsh of Wormleighton. Argent, a fess between 6 martlets, sable.
26. Littleton. Argent, a chevron between three escallops, sable.

WELSH. The family of Welsh, in old deeds called Wallis, or Waleys, was of great antiquity in Leicestershire; and the name is to be found among those recorded to have come into England with the Conqueror. Roger de Waleys, married the daughter and heiress of Henry de Wanlip, a manor about 5 miles from Leicester, which after this marriage, became the seat of the Welshes. Their son was styled Sir William Waleys of Wanlip, Knt. and flourished there \dagger Edw. 1. His descendant Richard Welsh, married 11 Hen. 6, 1453, Eleanor, daughter and coheiress of Alan Waldeive, Esq. by Joanna, daughter and heiress of Richard Whitaere, Esq. Alan Waldeive had a seat near Meriden, called Alspath-hall, where his ancestors were seated before the reign of Edward I. By this marriage it devolved to the Welshes, and got the name of Welsh-hall. Sir Thomas Welsh, son of Richard and Eleanora, married Margery, daughter and coheir of Sir Richard Byron. Their daughter Helen married Sir Wm. Lyttelton, whose daughter Joan was wedded to Sir John Aston of Hay-

wood, and brought Tixall and Wanlip into the Aston family.
Sir Thomas Welsh died in 1495.

BYRON. A family of Norman extraction, which came over with William the Conqueror. The branch which remained in France attained the highest rank of nobility in that country. Ralph de Buron, temp. W. Conq. held divers manors in Derbyshire and Notts; Robert, his great grandson, married Cecilia, daughter and heiress of Peter Clayton of Clayton, co. Lancaster, which became the residence of the Byrons. Sir John, their great grandson, married Alice, cousin and heir of Robert Buanstre, of Hyndley, co. Lancashire, Knt.; and died 12 Edw. 2. His descendant, Sir Richard Byron, married Joan, sister and heiress of Thomas de Colewick, co. Notts. This Joan was a great heiress, and brought a considerable estate to the Byrons; her father having married Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir John Peche, by his wife Alice, daughter and heiress of Sir W. Hayward, Knt. by Joan his wife, daughter and coheiress of Sir Saier de Huntingfield. Sir John Peche, was the son of Richard Peche and of Hawise, daughter and coheiress of Wm. de Arden. Sir Richard Byron had by Joan de Colewick an only son, who married Margery, daughter of Sir John Booth of Barton, by whom he had three sons: Richard, Nicholas, ancestor to the present Lord Byron, the celebrated poet, and Ralph. Richard, the eldest son, married Lucy, sister of Sir Thomas Ashton, Knt. by whom he had a son, James, who died without issue, and a daughter Margery, who became his heir, and married first, William Leke, Esq.; and secondly, Thomas Welsh of Wanlip, Esq.

STAPLETON. A family of great note, which has long resided at Carleton, near Snaith, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Its present worthy representative has lately proved his claim to the barony of Beaumont.

CURZON. Robert de Curzon came over with the Conqueror.

His grandson Richard, was seated at Croxall, co. Stafford, and had two sons, Robert, and Thomas, the ancestor of Lord Scarsdale, and of Viscount Curzon of Hagley. From Robert descended Thomas Curzon, *the husband of Anne Aston*, by whom he had issue three daughters. Sir George Curzon, Knt. grandson of Thomas Curzon, by a second wife, married Mary, sister and heiress of Sir William Leveson of Lilleshull. Their only child and heir Mary, married Edward Sackville, Earl of Dorset, whose celebrated duel with Lord Bruce in 1615, is recorded in the *Guardian*. From them is lineally descended the present Duke of Dorset.

ERDESWICK. This family resided at Sandon in Staffordshire, for many generations. Hugh, *who married Helen Aston*, was great uncle to Sampson Erdeswick, the antiquary. Richard, son of Sampson, sold Sandon to George Digby, his half brother, whose only daughter and heiress Jane, brought it in marriage to Charles, Lord Gerard of Gerard's Bromley. His son Digby, Lord Gerard, left it to his only daughter and heir, who married William, Duke of Hamilton, (killed in a duel 1712). The present Duke of Hamilton, grandson to this William, sold it in 1777, to the late Lord Harrowby, since which, it is become one of the most delightful demesnes in the county of Stafford.

BOLLES. Penho-castle in Monmouthshire, was long the residence of this family. It was the ancient seat of the Seymours. Bolles bore the arms of Seymour, and probably got the property by marrying an heiress of that family.

LAWLEY. In 17 Edw. 4. Thomas Lawley inherited the estates of John, Lord Wenlock, K. G. Richard, grandson of Thomas, was the father of Elizabeth, *who married Antony Aston*. Her mother was the daughter and heiress of Edmund Rugeley, Esq. Thomas, grandson of Richard, was created a baronet in 1641, from whom the present Sir Robert Lawley, Bart. is descended.

GRESLEY. Roger de Toeni, hereditary standard-bearer of Normandy, had three sons, Ralph, Robert, and Nigel, who were related to William the Conqueror, and accompanied him in his expedition into England. Ralph was grandfather to Margaret de Toeni, heiress of *Clifford-castle*, co. Hereford: who married Walter Fitz-Ponts, a Norman baron, and was the progenitrix of all the families in England of the name of Clifford: her husband Fitz-Ponts, being the first who ever bore the name. Robert, who was seated at Stafford-castle, and took the name of De Stafford, was the ancestor of the illustrious house of Stafford: Nigel, as appears from Domesday-book, held Drakelow in Derbyshire, which is the principal seat of the Gresleys to this day; and from him the present baronet is lineally descended. Sir Wm. Gresley, Knt. *husband of Catherine Aston*, was father to Sir George, the first baronet, created in 1611.

HARCOURT. This ancient and illustrious family is descended from Bernard, a nobleman of the blood royal of Saxony, who being born in Denmark, was surnamed the Dane. He was chief counsellor, and second in command to the famous Rollo, in his descent upon Normandy, in 876; and when Rollo made himself master of that country, Bernard obtained Harcourt, and other lordships, in return for his eminent services. Robert his great grandson, attended William, Duke of Normandy into England, in 1066. Robert de Harcourt, grandson of the aforesaid Robert, inherited the Norman possessions of the family; and was ancestor to the Duke d'Harcourt, and other families in France. Ivo, brother of Robert, inherited all his father's estates in England. He was ancestor to Sir Simon Harcourt, *who married Mary Aston*. Their grandson, Robert Harcourt, accompanied Sir W. Raleigh, in his expedition to Guiana, in 1609, and in 1615 published an account of his voyage. His son, Sir Simon, signalized himself in the Low Countries, against the Spaniards; and in 1641,

was made governor of Dublin, and was killed in defending it against the rebels. Sir Simon, son of the last, was successively solicitor and attorney-general, and lord keeper of the great seal : and in 1711, was created Baron Harcourt. In 1712, he was appointed lord high chancellor of Great Britain, and in 1721, was advanced to the dignity of viscount. His grandson, Simon, Viscount Harcourt, in 1749 was created Earl Harcourt, and in 1751, was appointed governor to his present majesty. In 1761, he was sent ambassador to Strelitz, to demand the Princess Charlotte, and accompanied her to England. He was afterwards sent ambassador to the court of France, and then made lord lieutenant of Ireland. He was unfortunately drowned in his own park at Nuneham, in 1777.

NEEDHAM. Robert Needham, *husband of Frances Aston*, was of Shenton, co. Salop, where that family had long been seated. They had issue two sons and four daughters : Sir Robert the eldest son, was created Viscount Kilmorey of the kingdom of Ireland ; and from him the present viscount is lineally descended. Maud, the eldest daughter, was married to John Aston, Esq. of Aston in Cheshire, and their son Sir Thomas was created a baronet in 1628. In the civil wars he was taken prisoner in a skirmish, and carried to Stafford, where he died of his wounds in 1645. He wrote some pieces against the Presbyterians, and was the chief man in his county that took part with the king, for whose service he raised a troop of horse.

LEVESON. The first of this family upon record is Richard Leveson, who was seated at Willenhall in Staffordshire, 27 Edw. 1. From him descended Richard Leveson of Prestwood, Esq. who had three sons : 1. John, o. s. p. 2. Nicholas was Lord Mayor of London, and died in 1559. 3. James. John, great grandson of Nicholas, died without issue male ; but left two daughters : Christian, who married Sir Peter Temple of Stow,

Bart. and Frances, the wife of Sir Thomas Gower, Bart. who inherited Lilleshull and Trentham. From these two females spring at least 20 peers, or heirs apparent of peers, of Great Britain. James Leveson, younger brother of Nicholas, the lord mayor, was a rich merchant of the staple, and had property at Wolverhampton and Lilleshull. By his first wife he had a daughter Mary, wife of Sir George Curzon of Croxall, who became his heir. From her descended the Duke of Dorset, Viscount Sackville, and the Earl of Thanet. By a second wife, James Leveson had two daughters : *Elizabeth married to Sir Walter Aston* ; and Joyce to Sir John Giffard of Chillington, Knt.

CROMPTON. William Crompton, a rich mercer of London, at the dissolution of monasteries, purchased 50 Hen. 8, the scite of Stone Priory, with the demesnes thereunto belonging, and the deanery of Stafford. It is remarked by Sir Simon Degge, that it did him no good ; and the family appears to be now extinct. His son William, *who married Jane Aston*, was sheriff of Stafford 59 Eliz. and died 4 Jac. 1. A grandson of theirs, Thomas Crompton, appears to have settled at Moreton, near Colwich. In 1659, he granted a piece of land lying at Reveing-hill, near Rugeley, worth 5*l.* 4*s.* per ann. to the parish of Colwich, with an intent that 24 loaves should be distributed to 24 poor persons, every Sunday after divine service, from that day till the end of the world.

PEYTO. William Peyto, *who married Elizabeth Aston*, was seated at Chesterton, co. Warw., and was descended from Richard de Peyto, or De Pictaviā, (Poitou) who is stated to have possessed lands at Drayton near Stratford, temp. Edw. 1. His ancestor was probably one of the Poitevin noblemen brought over by King John, to the great displeasure of his English subjects. This family ended in a female, and is now represented by Lord Verney, who bears the name of Peyto-Verney.

FIELDING. It appears from ancient records that Geoffrey, Count of Hapsburg, Lord of Lauffenberg, and Rhinfelden, in Germany, being oppressed by his relation Rodolph de Hapsburg, afterwards Emperor of Germany, and founder of the house of Austria, was reduced to extreme poverty; when one of his sons, called also Geoffrey, came over to England, and served King Henry III. in his wars; and from his father's lordship of Rhinfelden took the name of Felden or Fielding; and it further appears that King Henry, in consideration of his great extraction, granted him considerable estates.—(Dugd. Warw.)

Basil Fielding, the eleventh in descent from Geoffrey, *married Elizabeth Aston*. William, their eldest son, was knighted by King James I. at Belvoir-castle, on his first entrance into England in 1605, and was afterwards made Custos Rotulorum of the county of Warwick. In 18 Jac. 1, he was created a baron, by the title of Lord Fielding, and afterwards viscount: and in 20 Jac. 1, Earl of Denbigh. Firmly adhering to Charles I. during the civil war, he performed the part of a valiant soldier, in sundry engagements; but in a sharp skirmish with the enemy, near Birmingham, in 1643, he received several mortal wounds, of which he died a few days after.—(Dugd. Warw. Clarendon's Hist.)—He married a sister of the celebrated George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, by whom he had two sons and four daughters.

Basil, his eldest son, second Earl of Denbigh, was four times married, but died without issue male, in 1675. His first wife was daughter of Richard, Earl of Portland, and *sister to the second Lady Aston*.

George, second son of the first Earl of Denbigh, was created 20 Jac. 1, Baron Fielding and Viscount Callan, in Ireland; also Earl of Desmond in reversion. He died in 1665.

William, his eldest son, succeeded as Earl of Desmond, and on

the death of his uncle Basil in 1675, he succeeded also to the earldom of Denbigh, and from him the present earl is lineally descended.

From John, the youngest son of George, Earl of Desmond, was descended Sir John Fielding, the celebrated justice of Bow-street, and his brother Henry Fielding, the author of “*Tom Jones*.”

LUCY. The family of Lucy is of very ancient and illustrious extraction, being descended from Thurstan de Charlecote, second son of Thurstan, Baron Montfort, of Beldesert-castle, of whom some account has already been given. It is also remarkable for its noble alliances: among others, Sir William Lucy, Knt. who died 16 Edw. 4, married Elizabeth, daughter to Reginald, Lord Grey de Ruthven, who was descended from the Lords Astley, Strange of Blackmere, Hastings, Basset of Drayton, Longchamp of Wilton-castle, Bardolf, etc. The Lucies were seated at Charlecote, from the time of King Richard I. *Walter, first Lord Aston, was born there.* It was Sir Thomas Lucy, father of *Lady Aston*, who threatened Shakspeare with a prosecution for deer-stealing in his park, which compelled him to go to London, and attach himself to the theatre.

THIMELBY. This family was seated at Pelham, co. Linc. in the reign of Edward III. By the marriage of Richard Thimelby with the heiress of Sir Andrew Lutterell, Knt. towards the end of the 15th century, they acquired the parish of Irnham, (which was afterwards their principal residence) and a claim to the barony of Lutterell. In 1634, Elizabeth, sister of Sir John Thimelby, Knt. married Richard Conquest, of Houghton-Conquest, co. Bedford. John Thimelby, son and heir of Sir John, had two sons who died infants, and an only daughter married to Thomas Giffard, Esq. of Chillington, who died without issue, when the property of Irnham devolved to the Conquests. Benedict Conquest of Irn-

ham, Esq. who died in 1753, left an only daughter Mary, who became his heir, his son Benedict having died at the age of 20. She married Lord Arundell of Wardour, by whom she had no male issue, but two daughters : Mary, who married her cousin, the late Lord Arundell, and Eleanora, the wife of Lord Clifford of Uggbrook. Irnham is now the property of Lady Clifford.

PERSALL. A family of note and antiquity. Sir Wm. Persall, *who married Frances Aston*, was second son of Sir John Persall of Horseye, created a baronet in 1615. He was descended from Sir R. Swimmerton de Persall, Knt. who was thrice sheriff of the county of Stafford in the reign of Edward III. Sir William resided at Canwell in Staffordshire. His first wife was Mary Thimelby, sister to Henry Thimelby, husband of Gertrude Aston, and to Catherine Thimelby, the wife of Herbert Aston. He had no male issue, and Sir Thomas Persall, the fourth baronet, was the last of the family. His daughter Frances married Thomas Ireland of Shropshire, Esq.

WESTON. Sir Richard Weston, Knt. *father of Mary, Lady Aston*, was descended from Haleri, Lord of Weston, in the reign of Henry I. in that district of Lincolnshire called Holland. Being a person of great abilities, he was sent in 1619, ambassador with Sir Edward Conway into Bohemia, to close up the breach between the Emperor, and the Elector Palatine, son in law of King James I. and the ensuing year was dispatched to Bruxelles, there to treat with the embassy of the Emperor and the King of Spain, touching the restitution of the Palatinate. He was afterwards appointed chancellor, and under-treasurer of the exchequer. He discharged this office with so much wisdom and integrity, that in 22 Jac. 1. he had a commission to execute the office of treasurer of the exchequer during the king's pleasure. He was created a baron 4 Car. 1, by

the title of Lord Weston of Neyland in Suffolk, and the same year was appointed lord high treasurer : in 6 Car. 1, he was chosen a Knight of the Garter, and in February following, was made captain of the Isle of Wight. In 8 Car. 1, he was created Earl of Portland, and dying in 1654 at Wallingford-house, in Westminster, was buried at Winchester. At his death, by the king's command, the whole court went into mourning for one day.—(Thane's Autographs, v. 2.)—By his first wife Elizabeth, daughter of Wm. Pincheon, Esq. of Writtle, co. Essex, he had a son, who died unmarried, and two daughters : Elizabeth married to Sir John Netterville, Knt. son and heir of Nicholas, Viscount Netterville, and *Mary, Lady Aston.* By his second wife, he had three sons and four daughters. His three sons and his grandson inherited successively his honours, but dying without male issue, the title became extinct.

GAGE. A family, says Camden, of great note. It is probably of foreign extraction. Sir John Gage was created a baronet in 1622. He married Penelope, grand-daughter and coheiress of Sir Thomas Kitson of Hengreave, co. Suffolk, Knt. who brought the Hengreave estate into the Gage family. Sir Thomas Gage, his eldest son, second baronet, was grand-father to William, Viscount Gage. Hengreave went to Edward, third son of Sir John, who was created a baronet in 1622. His grandson, Sir John Gage, married Elizabeth, daughter and sole heir of Thomas Rookwood of Coldham, co. Suffolk, Esq. His son, Sir Thomas Rookwood Gage, had one son and three daughters. The son had by his first wife, Charlotte, daughter of Thomas Fitzherbert of Swinnerton, Esq. four sons. The eldest, Sir Thomas, the present baronet, married *Lady Mary Anne Browne*, daughter of the Earl of Kenmare : his next brother, who took the name and inherited the estate of Rookwood, married Miss O'Donnel of the kingdom of Ireland. Sir Edward Gage above-mentioned, was the husband of *Frances,*

daughter of Walter, second Lord Aston, who gave her his estate at Packington, near Lichfield, for her portion : she was his second wife, and had one son, Francis, of whom she died in childbed ; he inherited Packington, and married Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of John Devereux, Esq. of the island of Montserrat. He died in 1729, leaving one son, Devereux.

SOUTHCOTE. Originally from Southcot, co. Devon. Michael de Southcot was settled there 27 Hen. 5. From him descended John Southeote, who was a judge of the King's Bench in 1562. He had an estate at Witham in Essex, and was there buried in 1585. His grandson Sir John Southcot, Knt. married *Elizabeth Aston*, and resided at Albery, near Merstham, co. Surrey. The last male of the family was Philip Southcot, grandson of Sir John and Elizabeth Aston, who lived at Woburn Farm, co. Surrey. A branch of this family was settled for many generations at Calverleigh in Devonshire, now the seat of Charles Chichester, Esq.

SOMERSET. Henry Somerset, of Pentley Court, co. Gloucester, *husband of Anne Aston*, was eldest son of Sir John Somerset, Knt. second son of the renowned Marquis of Worcester, whose grandson in 1682 was created Duke of Beaufort. They had issue one daughter who was a nun ; and one son, Edward Maria, who married two wives, Clare and Anne, sisters ; the daughters of Charles Calvert, Lord Baltimore ; but he died without issue in 1711.

OGLE. This family is of great antiquity in Northumberland. In 15 Edw. 5, Robert de Oggie obtained licence to make a castle of his manor house at Oggie. His descendant, Sir Robert Ogle, Knt. 1 Edw. 4, was summoned to parliament as a baron of the realm. Cuthbert, last Lord Ogle, died 59 Eliz., leaving issue two daughters his heirs : Joan married to Edward Talbot, a younger son of George, Earl of Shrewsbury, but who died without issue ; whereupon Catherine, her youngest sister, became

sole heir. She was wife to Sir Charles Cavendish, Knt. of Welbeck, co. Notts; and in 1629, took the title of Baroness Ogle, of Ogle co. Northumberland. From Thomas, the younger brother of Cuthbert, probably descended Elizabeth Ogle, wife of Thomas Aston.

BLOUNT. This ancient family is said to take its rise from the Blondi, or Biondi in Italy, and they, from the Roman Flavii, both so called from their fair hair. Le Blond, Lord of Guines in France, had three sons, who came over with the Conqueror. One returned into France; the other two, Sir Robert and Sir William, were the progenitors of all the Blounts in England. Sir Robert was created by the Conqueror Baron of Icksworth in Suffolk; in which county he had 15 lordships. He was entitled, *Dux manuum militarium.* Sir William, his brother, was general of the foot to the Conqueror; had six lordships in Lincolnshire. From Sir Robert descended Gilbert, Baron of Icksworth, who had two sons, William and Stephen. William had a son William, who was slain at the battle of Lewes 1264, and was the last Baron of Icksworth. Sir Stephen Blount, his uncle, married Maria, sole daughter and heiress of Sir Wm. Le Blound, of Saxlingham in Suffolk; who was great grandson of the first Sir William that came over with the Conqueror. Sir William, grandson of Stephen, was sheriff of Rutlandshire 28 and 55 Edw. 1, 1507. He had three sons: from Sir Thomas Le Blound, the second son, who was steward of the household to Edward II. descend the Blounts of Maple-Durham, near Reading in Berkshire. Of the third son there is no record. Possibly he might be that David le Blound, who was seated at Bitton near Bath, in the reign of Edward II. where his family remained above 200 years. (See Atkyn's Gloucestershire). Sir Walter, of Rock in Worcestershire, eldest son of Sir William, married Joan, daughter and heiress of Sir W. de Sodington, which place remained the seat of the fa-

mily till about the middle of the last century. Sir John Blount, son of Sir Walter, married Isolda, daughter and heiress of Thomas, Lord Montjoye. Sir Thomas Blount, his eldest son, adhering to his lawful sovereign, King Richard II. was executed for high treason 1 Hen. 4, 1509. Sir Walter Blount, whom John of Gaunt appointed one of his executors, with a legacy of 100 marks, was possibly brother of this Sir Thomas, and the hero, who was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403, whose valour is so highly celebrated by Shakespeare. Sir Walter Blount, son of Sir Thomas, was treasurer of Calais, and afterwards of England, and was created Lord Montjoy in 1465. He married Anne, Duchess of Buckingham. His descendant Charles, Lord Montjoy, was an admiral, and knight of the Garter, and was created Earl of Devonshire. He died in 1606, leaving no male issue, but a natural son, who was created Lord Montjoy, Earl of Newport. His grandson Henry, fifth and last Earl of Newport, died in 1679, without issue. Sir John Blount, second son of Sir John and Isolda, above-mentioned, was ancestor by a second wife, the daughter and heir of Sir B. Cornwall of Kinlet, Knt. of the Blounts of Kinlet, Eyc, Kidderminster, Orleton, etc. From him, by his first wife, descended Sir Walter Blount, who was created a baronet 18 Car. 1. He was a great sufferer for that king, and was long imprisoned ; first at Oxford, then in the tower of London ; his brothers, and four of his sons, were all in the same service. His eldest daughter Eleanor, who *married Walter Aston, Esq.* afterwards third Lord Aston, died in 1674, before her husband came to the title. The present Sir Edward Blount, of Mawley and Soddington, co. Worc. is the grandson of Sir Walter Blount, who married Mary, eldest daughter and coheiress of James, fifth Lord Aston.

HOWARD. } A full account of these two illustrious families,
TALEBOT. } which are nearly connected, is given in Collins's

Peerage. Sir Robert Howard, created Duke of Norfolk in 1485, was descended by his mother from Thomas de Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, eldest son of King Edward I. by his second wife Margaret of France. Thomas, fourth Duke of Norfolk, married Mary, daughter and coheiress of Henry, Earl of Arundell, who inherited Arundell-castle. His grandson Thomas, Earl of Arundell and Norfolk, married Alethea, daughter, and at length sole heir to Gilbert Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury; and acquired by this marriage Worksop Manor, and great estates in Yorkshire and Notts. Bernard Howard, the present Duke of Norfolk, is descended from Bernard, eighth son of Henry, Earl of Arundell, who died in 1656. The Lords Stourton and Petre are now the representatives and heirs general of the Lady Alethea Talbot, and Thomas, Earl of Arundell, being descended from the two daughters and coheiresses of the Honourable Philip Howard, who was youngest brother to Lady Aston, and to Thomas and Henry, eighth and ninth Dukes of Norfolk.

Charles Talbot, the present of Earl of Shrewsbury, is nephew to Barbara, Lady Aston, and is descended from Sir Gilbert Talbot, K. G. second son of John, second Earl of Shrewsbury. The title came into that line, by the death of Edward, eighth Earl of Shrewsbury, without issue, in 1617. Charles, twelfth Earl of Shrewsbury, was created Marquis of Alton, and Duke of Shrewsbury; but died in 1718 without issue.

No. VI.

M E M O R I A L S
 O F T H E
 A S T O N F A M I L Y.

I have not met with a more noble family, measuring on the level of flat and unadvantaged antiquity. They have ever borne a good respect to the church, and to learned men.

FULLER'S "Worthies."

There are many places in England of the name of Aston, which were probably so called from their relative situation to some other place of greater consequence. For, as Weston, Norton, and Sutton, are derived from West-town, North-town, and South-town, so Aston or Eston, as it was sometimes written, is derived from East-town; all these places having been so called from their relative situation to one more considerable than themselvs.

It seems probable, that the Astons of Haywood and Tixall, (who were seated at the former place before the middle of the 15th century) were a branch of the Astons, of Aston in Cheshire; a distinguished family, which has resided on the same spot, at

least from the time of Edward the Confessor. (1) It is now represented by Sir Willoughby Aston, Bart.

" Of this ancient family" says Wotton, " was Hudard, or Odard, in the time of Edward the Confessor, or prior to that, and styled, Hudard de East-town, lord of the manor of East-town, since called Aston; from which place this family was denominated. They are mentioned in Domesday-book to be possessors of land in this county." (2)

Besides other reasons for believing that the Astons of Haywood were descended from those of Cheshire, I find that the same Christian names occur in the pedigrees of the earlier branches of both families, a circumstance much relied on by genealogists; and moreover, that the colours blazoned in their arms are the same, though the bearings are different; the arms of Aston of Cheshire, being sable and argent, party per chevron, those of Aston of Tixall, argent, a fess, three lozenges in chief sable. This circumstance of similar colours, and different bearings, is not at all uncommon in the various branches of many ancient families. But whatever may have been the origin of the Astons of Haywood and Tixall, in the county of Stafford, it is certain, that they soon rose to great eminence on account of their extensive possessions and splendid alliances; they were always distinguished for their love of arms and letters; and among other ancient authors, they are mentioned in very honourable terms by Camden, Drayton, and Fuller.

Roger de Aston, the first of the family who is known to have resided at Haywood, was a younger son of Ralph de Aston or Eston, in the county of Stafford; (3) and it is probable that his

(1) Sir Pet. Leycester's Antiq. of Cheshire, p. 208. Beetham's Baronet.

(2) Wotton's Baronet.

(3) Loxdale, Paroch. Antiq. of Staff. MS. penes March. de Buckingham.
Evid. at Tixall. Chetwynd MSS.

elder brother was that John de Eston, whose name occurs among the rebellious barons who maintained Kenilworth-castle, in Warwickshire, against Henry III. in the year 1266, till they were compelled by famine and sickness to surrender. (1) If we may form a judgment of him by those with whom he was then associated, he must have been a person of considerable consequence.

In or about the year 1291, 19 Edw. I, Roger de Molend, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, granted to this Roger de Aston, several estates at Haywood and Longdon, in the county of Stafford, together with the mastership of the game in Cannock Wood, to him and his heirs for ever. In the original deed, which is in Latin, it is expressed, that these grants were made by the bishop *Rogero de Aston, Valetto suo.* To form a proper opinion of the rank and condition of Roger de Aston, we must now consider the meaning of this expression *Valetto suo.* The word *Valettus* is thus defined by Ducange in his Glossary : *Magnatis filius, qui nondum militare cingulum erat consecutus :* the son of a nobleman who had not yet been girt with the sword of knighthood ; and he also observes, that the term *vassalus* is to be taken in those early times, as the equivalent of *miles* or knight ; and *valettus* is to be construed *quasi vassalletus*, the diminutive of *vassalus*, and meaning a little or half-knight.

An new edition of the “ History of the Empire of Constantinople,” by Ville-Harduin, was published by Ducange ; and in the Glossary to that work, p. 187, he says, “ In addition to the remarks which I have made in my notes on Ville-Harduin, I must observe, that it seems that the third figure in the game of cards called the Valet, (Knave) represents the son of the king and queen, and their principal heir. For Ville-Harduin clearly shews, that in his time the prince and successor to the empire was so called,

(1) Dugd. Warw. by Thomas, p. 247.

and that it by no means meant a servant or *luquais*, as is falsely supposed." For this meaning of the word *valettus* we have also the authority of Selden, who says, " The young heirs that were to be knighted, and so in the next degree to a knight, were comprehended under the title of *valetti*; and *valet* was anciently with us, as in France also, a name specially denoting young gentlemen, though of great descent and quality. (1) St. Palaye, in his interesting " Memoirs of Ancient Chivalry," states three degrees, through which, a young man intended for the military profession, ordinarily passed. He was first, a page, second, an esquire, third, a knight : *valettus, armiger, miles*. It is to the first of these titles, the page, that the term *valettus* strictly applies. (2) In confirmation of those testimonies in favour of the honourable meaning of the word *valet* in ancient days, it may be proper to add, that in a document preserved by Rymer, which records a grant from King Edward III. to Chaucer, the poet is styled *dilectus valettus noster*. This grant of King Edward to Chaucer, was dated about a century after that of Roger de Morden to Roger de Aston, but at a period when the institutions of chivalry were still in their highest vigour and splendour.

It is well known that in the feudal times, and down to the period of the Reformation, the bishop's palace was much resorted to by young noblemen, as a place of education. Cardinal Wolsey had several under his roof, who were even accustomed to wait upon him like servants. (5) The bishops, moreover, being always considered as feudal lords, and barons of the realm, had generally about them the same train of military attendants as the temporal peers ; they were accompanied in the same manner,

(1) Titl. of Hon. Part 2, chap. 5, p. 831.

(2) Tom. 1, part 1.

(3) Hume, Hist. Hen. 8, chap. 38.

by their pages, esquires, and knights. We may therefore safely conclude, that Roger de Aston was a young gentleman of noble birth, who being educated in the palace of the Bishop of Lichfield, became his favourite page, and the heir of a considerable part of his property.

And here we may pause a moment, to observe the strange alterations which time and custom will effect in the signification of words. The term *valet*, which was formerly a title of honour, and appropriated to young noblemen of the first rank, is now come to mean nothing but a nobleman's private servant ; and in like manner, the word *knave*, which from the German *knab*, originally signified a boy, a lad, and afterwards a servant, is now a rogue, or scoundrel. So true is the remark of Horace :

Multa renascentur quæ jam cecidere, cadentque
Quæ nunc sunt in honore vocabula, si volet *usus*,
Quem penes arbitrium est, et jus et norma loquendi. (1)

The estate of Haywood, and the mastership of the game in Cannock Wood, thus bestowed on Roger de Aston, by the Bishop of Lichfield, have continued with his descendants, though with some vicissitudes, down to the present day ; but the property at Longdon devolved to a younger branch, and in the reign of Henry V. was carried by an heiress into another family. Some remains of the ancient residence at Haywood are still visible, and form part of a large malt-house, in which on the third of June 1806, nearly 700 persons were regaled with an ox roasted whole, and a plentiful entertainment, in honour of the birth of Thomas Aston Clifford, son and heir of Sir Thomas Clifford, Bart. grandson of James, fifth Lord Aston, and the present possessor of the estates of Haywood and Tixall.

(1) *De Art. Poet.*

" In my memory," says Pennant, " the old seat was in possession of the Whitbys, but it has since been reunited to the house of Tixall, by purchase: the barn belonging to the manor-house at Haywood, was of a most magnificent size, but of late has been greatly reduced" (1)

It will not be unacceptable to the curious reader to find in this place, some information respecting Roger de Molend, the munificent benefactor of Roger de Aston. Roger de Molend, alias Longespée, was the third son of William Longespée, and Ela, daughter and heiress of William Fitz-Patrick, Earl of Salisbury. (2) William Longespée his father, was the natural son of Henry II. and Rosamund Clifford, commonly called Fair Rosamund, the beautiful daughter of Walter de Clifford, of Clifford-castle, in the co. Hereford. Ela was so great an heiress, that she was privately carried over to France by her friends, and concealed in a convent in that country, till a proper marriage could be fixed upon for her; but the place of her confinement being discovered by one William Talbot, a minstrel or harper, she was brought back to England, and given in marriage by King Richard I. to William Longespée, his natural brother, who in her right was also made Earl of Salisbury. (3) William Longespée, or Longsword, Earl of Salisbury, was a great hero in his time, but died at an early age; and after his death, the Countess Ela devoted herself to works of piety; and was the foundress, and first abbess of Lacock Abbey, in Wiltshire, where she died, and was buried. Her tomb is still to be seen in the ivy-mantled cloisters of that place.

Roger de Molend is called by Mathew Paris, *Regis Nepos*; which may signify either that he was grandson to King Henry II.

(1) Journey from Chest. to Lond.

(2) Godwin de Praesul. Shaw's Hist. of Staff. vol. 1, p. 268.

(3) Dugd. Baron. vol. 1. Pref. to Percy's Reliq. of An. Eng. Poet.

or nephew to Kings Richard and John. On the resignation of Roger de Wesham, in the year 1256, he was chosen to succeed him in the bishopric of Lichfield, through the interest of his cousin, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother to King Henry III. Bishop de Molend, was also one of the pope's chaplains, and in the last year of the reign of Henry III. was appointed sheriff of Berkshire. He was educated, and perhaps born in a foreign country, and was little conversant with the English language; and was moreover so often absent from his diocese, that Peckham, Archbishop of Canterbury, thought it proper to address a mandate to him, to enforce his residence; and in the year 1284, appointed Elias de Napton, Archbishop of Derby, to assist him in the discharge of his functions. De Molend, however, was a liberal benefactor to the church. He recovered several possessions belonging to his see, which had been nearly lost; added three livings to the prebends of the cathedral, and doubled the daily stipend of the canons. In the year 1260, he purchased a piece of land on the south-side of the Strand, in London, and built thereon an episcopal palace, which was sometimes called Chester-place, and was conveyed by that name 51 Hen. 8, to Edward, Earl of Hertford, afterwards the protector, Duke of Somerset, in compensation for which it is said, the parsonage of Hanbury in the county of Stafford was given to the see. He died at an advanced age, in the year 1295, and was buried in the cathedral at Lichfield, under a tomb on the south-side of the high altar, just below the bishop's seat.(1)

The original deed of the Bishop of Lichfield's grant to Roger de Aston, gives the following account of the transaction:

“ Roger de Molend grants to Roger de Aston (dilecto Valetto suo) all the lands and tenements, which Philip Noel formerly held

(1) *Ang. Sacra*, vol. 1, p. 447. Harwood's *Descrip of Lichf. Cath.*

in Longdon ; and also the custody of his woods, belonging to his barony of Lichfield and Haywood : and also the chief guardianship of all his parks and hays, within his free chace of Cannock, with common of pasture for all his beasts, and pannage for 50 swine, in all the aforesaid woods, (except the parks and assarts) and four oaks yearly for fire-wood, and one for timber, for the repairs of his house : et quod praedictus Rogerus et heredes sui, praedictos Boscos, Chacias, Haias, et Parcos, factos sen faciendos in viridi venatione, cum agistamentis, imparcamentis, attachamenti, et omnibus aliis ad custodias illas pertinentibus, custodiant et conservent in perpetuum. Which grant is confirmed by Thomas, Prior of Coventry, under the common seal of that cathedral, A.D. 1291. Witnesses to Roger de Molend's deed, Nicholas, Prior of St. Thomas, William de Stafford, Henry Mauveyisin, Knt.

The said Roger de Molend granted further by another deed to Roger de Aston, several lands and tenements in Haywood and Bishton, to be held of him and his successors, by the eighth part of a knight's fee, and eight shillings of yearly rent, and a reservation of their appearance at his court at Haywood."

" A.D. 1538, 50 Hen. 8, Rowland, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, confirms to Sir Edward Aston, the chief rangership of all his parks, hays, and chaces, in Cankwood ; granting him moreover, two fee bucks, every summer, and two does each winter ; and one buck and one doe out of Beandesert Park : together with the umbles of every buck and doe killed yearly, except the umbles of such deer as shall be killed when the bishop or his successors shall hunt themselves. He granted further to the said Sir Edward and his heirs, 100 loads of fire-wood yearly from Cankwood, to be spent either at his house at Haywood or Tixall." (1)

(1) Chetwynd MS.

Roger de Aston added considerably to the property which he held by the bounty of the Bishop of Lichfield. He obtained a grant of other lands at Haywood, from Adam de Aston, who might be supposed to be of the same family, only that his arms were different, the seal affixed to the deed bearing a bend, with a catherine wheel in chief, in the dexter point, and a wheel for the crest. He also purchased the lordship of Broughton in the parish of Longdon; and of John de Bocland, all his tenements in the rill of Blithbury, held of Martin Martel of Cannock, for the sum of $46l.$ $13s.$ $4d.$ and the annual payment of a chief rent of $18\frac{1}{2}d.$ with a *clove of garlic*, to be delivered to the said Martin, within the door of the hall of the principal messuage on the birth-day of our Lord, before the hour of nine in the forenoon. This sum of $46l.$ $13s.$ $4d.$ appears very small now a-days for the purchase of an estate. But first, we must observe, that the nominal pound sterling of that period was a real pound of silver, or about three of our nominal pounds, which at once raises the sum to $140l.$ 2dly, The rental of land was at that time low; for it appears that the subsidies which were first imposed about the time of Richard II. and were the origin of our land-tax, (being a tax imposed upon persons in respect of their reputed estates, after the nominal rate of 4s. in the pound for lands, and 2s. 6d. for goods) did not, according to Sir Edward Coke, amount to more than $70,000l.$ Whereas a land-tax of 4s. in the pound on the land only, now produces above two millions, and if fully and fairly assessed upon the present rentals, would amount to more than seven millions. According to this calculation, $140l.$ at that time should purchase as much land as $14,000l.$ would now:—thus supposing the average price of land to be now about $70l.$ an acre, (a very high estimate) the estate of Roger Aston in Blithbury, could not have been less than 200 acres. And this appears very likely, as this estate came to Martin of Cannock, above-mentioned, by marriage with Letitia, one of the two

daughters and coheiresses of Sir Wm. Kilby, who was sole Lord of Blithbury, which probably consists of considerably more than 400 acres.

I shall conclude these details respecting Roger de Aston, by noticing a singular coincidence or connexion which at length took place between his family and that of Roger de Molend, his benefactor. Roger de Molend was, through his grandmother Rosamund Clifford, great grandson of Walter de Clifford, of Clifford-castle ; and the late Hon. Thomas Clifford, of Tixall, (who by his marriage with the daughter and heiress of Lord Aston, became possessor of the estate at Haywood) was also lineally descended by the male line from the said Walter de Clifford; so that the estate of Haywood, after remaining for five centuries with the direct descendants of Roger de Aston, the original grantee, became the property of a descendant from the family of the original grantor ; and this was effected by a union between the families of both.

— Quod divum promittere nemo
Auderet, volvenda dies en attulit ultiro!

Roger de Aston, who may thus be considered as the founder of this family, died in the year 1500.

Sibilla, the eldest daughter of Roger de Aston, married Richard Wolseley. The following account of the origin of this family is given by Chetwynd, in his Manuscript Collections.

“ Trent having left Colwich, passes between Wolseley and Bish顿, both which were anciently members of Haywood. Nigellus, paternal ancestor of the Gresleys, held Wulselgh of y^e Bp. 20 Conq. it being then rated at half a hide, and valued at 40d. About the time of King Henry II. it was divided betwixt Ric. de Hintes, and Ric. de Wolseley, as appears by the following deed :

Hæc est Conventio facta inter Ricardum de Hintes, et Ricardum

de Wolsellegh Nepotem suum : Quod communi consensu amicorum eorum, ex utrâque parte sunt interaffidati fideliter simul tenere jura eorum apud Wulsellegh : fideliter et potenter servare, et simul gubernare, et in bonum tractare ; et ubi jura eorum retro sint, quod adquirere poterint fideliter et potenter purcaciare, et dimidiare : ita quod neuter eorum de altero flectabit, nec concordiam faciet de placito sine altero, nec placitum commutabit. Hanc autem Conventionem fideliter observare ex utrâque parte, et confirmare, His sunt testes. Ral. de Mutton. Ada fil. ejus. Ada de Colwiz, cum aliis multis.

Not long after it came into y^e possession of the Wolseleys, who held it of y^e Greisleys, by y^e rent of 4s. per an. and after many generations devolved to S^r Thomas Wolsey, and from him to S^r Rob. Wolsey, who was advanced to y^e dignity of a baronet 4 Car. 1, and had issue S^r Charles Wolsey of Wolsey, Bart. now living 1680."

This Sir Charles Wolsey, who was living in the time of Walter Chetwynd of Ingestrue, was a great favourite with Oliver Cromwell, who allowed him to draw from Needwood Forest as much timber as was necessary to form a paling round his park, which is still standing.

Sir William Wolsey, one of his descendants, lost his life, about the beginning of the last century, in a very singular manner. He went to Lichfield one morning about nine miles from his house, in his coach and four, and on his way passed a little brook, which runs across the road at Longdon, and which is so shallow that a foot passenger can easily step over it, the water being kept up by a mill-dam at some distance from the road. When Sir William Wolsey reached this brook, on his return home in the evening, the mill-dam just at that instant suddenly gave way, the water rushed across the road, overturned the carriage, and drowned Sir William with his horses. The coachman was

thrown off the box into a tree and escaped. Ralph Wolseley, baron of the exchequer, married Margaret, fourth daughter of John Aston, Esq. temp. Edw. 4. (1)

Sir Charles Wolseley, the present baronet, married Mary, second daughter of the late Hon. Thomas Clifford of Tixall, and grand-daughter of James, fifth Lord Aston. By this marriage, the families of Aston and Wolseley were a third time united, during a lapse of five centuries. The estate of Bishton, which was the marriage portion of Sibilla de Aston, is still the property of the Wolseley family.

The consequence and consideration which the family of Aston had acquired in the county of Stafford, soon appeared in the person of John de Aston, son and heir of Roger de Aston. He was created a knight, which was the highest dignity that an English sovereign could then bestow ; for the more modern titles of duke, marquis, and viscount, were in those times unknown ; the dignity of *comes* or earl, was a title of office, corresponding nearly with that of lord lieutenant of a county ; and all those were called barons who held lands of the king. In the seventh year of the reign of King Edward III. Sir John de Aston was elected knight of the shire with Sir Richard de Faleden, and according to the custom of that period, received from his constituents an allowance of expenses for eighteen days attendance in Parliament.

Some years after, he was appointed by King Edward III. high sheriff of the county of Stafford ; an office, which as Hume has shewn, in his History of England, was in those feudal times of the greatest trust and consequence. The high sheriff was called in Latin Vice-comes, from which the modern title of viscount is derived.

Sir Roger de Aston, Knt. eldest son and heir of Sir John, was chosen knight of the shire for the county of Stafford, twice during the lifetime of his father. He was also one of the officers attached to King Edward III. and had a share in the military events of that glorious and memorable reign.

His grandson Sir Thomas Aston of Haywood, Knt. was, like his ancestors, master of the game in Cankwood, and several times knight of the shire for the county of Stafford. He accompanied John of Ghent in an expedition into Gascony, in the year 1394, and by Henry IV. was also appointed high sheriff. He married Elizabeth, sister and coheiress of Reginald de Leigh, and of Parkhall in the county of Stafford.—(See Appendix V.)

John Aston, Esq. of Haywood, who flourished in the reign of Edward IV. was by that king appointed sheriff of the counties both of Stafford and Warwick, on two different occasions. He was one of the adherents of the famous Lord Hastings, who was accused of witchcraft, and put to death in a very summary manner, by the protector, afterwards King Richard III. The name of John Aston, Esq. is to be found in a list of 89 persons, knights, esquires, and gentlemen, who engaged to stand by Lord Hastings, whether in peace or war. This list is contained in an ancient roll, thus entitled :

“ The names of such persons, as by indenture, of their own free will, and mere motions, covenanted, *belyste*, and faithfully promised to aid and assist the Right Hon. Wm. Lord Hastings, and his part to take against all persons within this realm of England during their lives, as well in peace as war: their allegiance to the king’s majesty, his heirs and successors, only reserved and excepted, with so many able persons as every of them might well make to be furnished and arrayed at the costs and charges of the said Lord: For the which, the said Lord promised them to be their good and true Lord, in all things reasonable, and them

to aid and succour in all their rightful causes, so far forth as Law, Equity, and Conscience require.

“ Anno Edwardi Quarti decimo quarto.”(1)

The list consists of 2 lords, 9 knights, 58 esquires, and 20 gentlemen, in all 89. The name of John Aston is the third among the esquires.

Sir John Aston, knight banneret, eldest son of this John Aston, Esq. made a considerable figure during the period in which he flourished. He was made a knight of the Bath, at the marriage of Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII. with Catherine of Arragon, Infanta of Spain, (afterwards the wife of his younger brother Henry VIII.) which was celebrated in the year 1502. Sir John Aston accompanied Henry VIII. in his expedition into France, in the third year of his reign, and was present at the sieges of Terouenne and Tournay. For his valour and conduct at the battle of Spurs, he was made a knight banneret by the king himself on the field of battle; and this appears to have been the last instance in which this distinguished dignity of chivalry was conferred by an English sovereign in the open field after a victory. Sir John Aston was several times high sheriff of the counties of Stafford, Leycester, and Warwick.

In Maitland's History of London, p. 1015, is the following account of a religious and charitable association, of which Sir John Aston was one of the members and founders :

“ There was a very noble Guild, or fraternity, founded in the church of St. Catherine's Hospital, in honor of St. Barbara. It was governed by a master and three wardens. It had two royal founders, King Henry VIII. and Queen Katharine his first wife; and many very high and honourable persons associated themselves as members and founders of the said confraternity, viz. :

(1) Dugdale's Baron. vol. 1. p. 583.

King Henry, Queen Katharine, Cardinal Wolsey, Duke and Duchess of Buckingham, Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, Duke of Suffolk, my Lord Marquess, the Earls of Shrewsbury, Northumberland, and Surrey, Lord Hastings, and all their ladies, brethren, and sisters.

Also, Sir Richard Cholmeley, Sir William Compton, Sir William Skeffington, Sir John Digby, Sir Ryce ap Thomas, Sir Gryffith Ryce, Sir John Aston, Knights, and John Beaumont, Esquire.

RULES OF THE SAID FRATERNITY.

“ Whoever by the grace of God is disposed to enter into the blessed fraternity of the Gylde of our glorious Saviour Christ Jesus, and of the blessed Virgin and Martyr St. Barbara, founded in St. Katheryn’s church near the tower of London, and will have the pardon, privilege, and profit thereunto granted and ordained, must pay to the said fraternity, the sum of 10s. 4d. sterling, at his first entering if he will, or else by leisure within the space of 7 years; that is, at his first entering, 12d. and every quarter following 4d. till the said 10s. 4d. be paid, in money, plate, or any other honest stuff: And at the first payment, he or she that so entereth into the said fraternity, whether they be wedded or single, shall receive a letter with the seal of the Warden Collector: which Warden shall receive their name, and bring it to the altar of the glorious Jesus, and St. Barbara, in St. Katheryn’s church aforesaid, there to be registered, and there shall be prayed for daily by name. And when the last sum of 10s. 4d. is paid, then the said brother or sister shall receive a letter with the common seal of the said fraternity and place, with the masters name and wardens therein for the time being, whereby he shall have a great commodity and surety of living: that is, that ever the said brother or sister fall in decay of worldly goods, as by sickness, or hurt by wars, or upon the land or sea, or by any other casualty, or means, fallen into poverty, then if he bring the said letter sealed with

the said common seal, the Master and all the company shall receive him favourably ; and there he shall have every week 14d. ; house-room and bedding, and a woman to wash his cloths, and dress his meat ; and so to continue year by year, and week by week, during his life.

Given the first day of December, 1518, Sir William Skeffington Knt. being then Master, and William Unley, and Robert Fisher, Wardens."

Sir John Aston married Joanna, daughter of Sir William Littleton, son of the famous Judge Littleton. This lady was also heiress to her mother Helen, daughter of Robert Walsh, Esq. Lord of Wanlip, in the county of Leicester. By her the *manor of Tixall came to the family of Aston*, having been sold by Rose de Wasteneys, the heiress of it, to Judge Littleton.

Sir John Aston died in the year 1525, and was buried by the side of his lady, in Leigh church, where a handsome marble monument richly gilded, was erected to her memory ; on the top of the monument are the figures of Sir John habited as a knight in complete armour, and his lady lying by him, their hands joined, and elevated in a praying posture, with appropriate emblems of valour and virtue, at the head and feet. The monument stands lengthways against the wall, and on the opposite side are six niches, with two human figures in each. At the head are also three niches, with two figures in each, and at the foot of the monument there are three, each filled with an angel, supporting a coat of arms. Round the verge is this inscription :

Hic jacent corpora Domini Johannis Aston Militis, et Dominæ Johannaë Aston, uxoris ejus, qui quidem Dominus Johannes obiit decimo octavo die Mensis Maii, Anno Domini 1525. Et prædicta Domina Johanna obiit, —— die Mensis —— Anno Dom. 15 ——.

Sir Edward Aston of Tixall, eldest son and heir of Sir John

Aston, was high sheriff of Staffordshire three different times in the reign of Henry VIII. and twice during the reign of Philip and Mary.

On the dissolution of the religious houses, he was forced by King Henry VIII. to take Matherfield, or Mayfield, belonging to the priory at Tutbury; the abbey of Hilton, Bradnop, and divers other abbey lands in the county of Stafford, in exchange for estates at Ashted in Surrey, and other places which he possessed by descent from his ancestors ; they having been given by "Radulphus, filius Willielmi Camerarii," immediately after the Conquest, to William de Mara, of whom Sir Edward Aston was the heir general.

Sir Edward built a mansion-house at Tixall, in a magnificent style of Gothic architecture, and died there in the year 1559. He married two wives, first, Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon, Knt. who died without issue at Wanlip in Leicestershire, where they appear to have chiefly resided, and where she was buried ; as her tomb is still to be seen, with the arms of Aston and Vernon carved upon it. The second wife of Sir Edward was Joan, or Joanna, daughter of Sir Thomas Bolles or Bowles of Penhow-castle, in Monmouthshire, one of the barons of the exchequer, by whom he had issue three sons and three daughters. Sir E. Aston and his second wife were entombed under a stately monument of alabaster, in St. Mary's church at Stafford ; on which they are represented in a recumbent posture, with images of their children carved around the tomb, and the following inscription, in which is the name of Lady Aston only, as the monument was erected to her memory by Sir Edward, who survived her six years. He died at Tixall in the year 1568, and was laid by her side in the same tomb.

" In hoc tumulo conditur Domina Joanna Aston, uxor Edwardi Aston de Tixall generosi, eaque ipsa filia Tho. Bollis de

Penho Equitis egregii. Quæ quidem Domina Aston intra mortales esse desit Anno Domini 1562, adhuc vivente marito. Mancrinum de Tixall fuit ædificatum non sine summa solicitudine atque labore, impensis Janæ Bowles, filiæ Thomæ Bowles militis. "So all my trust is in God." On each side of the monument are four armorial bearings, and at the end of it are the arms of Bowles, which are two wings conjoined, with this motto, "I sought to flee thought;" and the arms of Aston with many quarterings, surmounted by a bull's head, the family crest, and this motto, "In God is all my trust." On an alabaster slab in the wall, at the foot of the monument, are the arms of Aston and Bowles impaled, and round the verge these words: "M. Edwardi Aston et Janæ Bowles." Opposite to it are the following Latin verses, which like the inscriptions above-mentioned are all carved in Gothic letters :

Hic Johanna jacet Domina Aston, quæ pia quondam
Edwardi Astoni militis uxor erat.

Filia sic et erat Thomæ Bollis; domus unde
Prodiit est Penho miles et ipse fuit.

Illa quidem villam de Tyxall ædificando
Auxiliatrices præbuit usque manus.
Hæc matrona potens, prolis fæcunda, benigna,
Prudens, atque sciens, ac animosa fuit.

Sit mundus judex, pereat livor quoque, dicam
Nestoreos annos vivere digna fuit.
Deinde dies venit fatalis, quæ manet omnes,
Debita Naturæ solvere quæque jubet.

Septembrisque die viceno, heu! perit illa,
Atque secundo, aiunt, mors! tua vis nimia est.
Immo non periit, sed Olympica regua petivit,
Quæ Pater æternus præparat ipse suis.

Non mors est quam nos fugimus, mortemque vocamus,
Sed vere vita est, vivimus atque Deo.

TRANSLATION.

Jane Lady Aston here lies in your sight
The pious wife of Edward Aston, knight.
Of Thomas Bowles likewise the daughter she,
Of Penhow Castle, and a knight was he.
In building Tixall House her helping hand
From first to last this lady did expand.
A noble matron, prudent, knowing, kind,
A fruitful mother, of a lofty mind,
Most worthy was she Nestor's years to see,
As Envy's self, and all the world agree.
Yet came the fatal hour, which waits us all,
Great Nature's debt to pay which gives the call.
September twenty-second was the day
Which called her spirit from this earth away,
Alas ! that so much worth should perish quite !
Too great, O death ! is thy insatiate might.
But no—she did not perish, there she lives,
Where to his saints himself the Almighty gives.
What we call death, when this our life is done,
This death, which with such terror mortals shun,
Is life, our real life, in God and heaven begun. } }

A. C.

Sir Walter Aston, Knt. eldest son and heir of Sir Edward Aston, by his second wife Jane Bowles, was chosen knight of the shire for the county of Stafford, together with William Devereux, third son of Walter, first Viscount Hereford, during the short reign of Edward VI. Sir Walter Aston was a military man, and

distinguished himself in an expedition which was sent to Scotland in the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He was present at the siege of Leith near Edinburgh, and for his valour on that important occasion was knighted by that queen, who during her whole reign was remarkably sparing of titles and honours. In the 12th and 22d years of her reign, Sir Walter Aston was high sheriff of the county of Stafford. He built the Gate-house at Tixall, of which a description has been given in another part of this work. Erdeswick, the antiquary, mentioning it in his survey of Staffordshire, says, “ It is one of the statelyest pieces of work which I have seen made of late in these countrys.”

The portrait of Sir Walter Aston, painted on wood, is preserved at Tixall. He is represented in black armour studded with gold ; his left hand grasping the hilt of his sword, his right resting on his helmet, which is adorned with a plume of white feathers, and lies with his gauntlets on a table before him. The helmet and gauntlets, like the rest of the armour, are black studded with gold. In one corner of the picture are the Aston arms, under them this inscription :

Walterus Aston, apud Leith in Scotiâ miles, in re militari Elizabethæ serenissimæ Reginæ Angliæ, A°. Regni sui secundo, A°. 1560.

In another place is written :

Effigies A°. Domini 1584, ætatis sue 55.

Sir Walter Aston died at the age of 60, in the year 1585. From William, his fourth son, who was settled at Milwich, near Tixall, is descended the Rev. Walter Hutchinson Aston, the ninth and present Lord Aston.

Eleanor, third daughter of Sir Walter Aston, married William Peyto, Esq. of the county of Warwick. They were buried in the south aisle of Chesterton church in that county, under a handsome marble monument, decorated with their busts, and the arms of

Peyto and Aston impaled. On one side of the monument is the following epitaph.

Deo Trino et Uni Sacrum.

Gulielmo Peyto optimæ memoriæ viro vetustà Pictiorum prole, laudatissimo, et sui temporis primo, majorumque suorum ab Henrici II^{di}. Regis temporis hac equestri dignitate functorum, in Deum pietate, in egenos munificentia, morumque suavitate in omnes, felici imitatori, Edwardus filius, Eques auratus, mæstus, mærcens, M. P. C.

Ipse ab Elianorâ, filiâ Domini Gualteri Aston, Militis, amitâ Domini Gualteri Aston de Tixall, Baronis de Forfar, (legationem regiam in Hispaniâ jampridem gerentis) quinque filios conjugi suâ amantissimâ suscepit.

Hic mense Decembri, anno a Verbo carnem facto M.D.C.I.X.
Illa Febr. MDCXXXVI. fatis concesserunt.

There is also a monument in the same church to the memory of their second son Edward Peyto, on which he is styled, “*Vir bonarum literarum, maxime Mathematicarum peritissimus.*”

Their grandson also, who died in 1658, appears to have been a man of great learning. According to his epitaph, on a marble stone, he was “*Vir exploratae integritatis, gravitate morum conspicuus, rerumque intimos recessus scientiarum lumine conspicatus.*”

In those times, as all land was supposed to be held of the crown, and the heir was obliged to pay a certain sum for his “Relief” as it was called, before he could obtain the full possession of his property, it was customary to make a legal inquiry, called “*Inquisitio post mortem*” into the property of the deceased. The following table is an account of the estates which descended to Sir Walter Aston, in the county of Stafford.

*Copy of the Schedule delivered to Sir Wm. Cecil, Knt. 10
Eliz by Sir Walter Aston, Knt. upon the death of his
father, of all his lands and hereditaments.*

County of Stafford.

L. s. d.

| | | | |
|---|----|---|----|
| Manor of Mylwiche, etc. holding of the queen of her manor of Forebridge. Clear yearly value..... | 20 | 6 | 8 |
| (Infeoffment to the use of the said Edw. Aston, Knt. for the term of his life, and after his decease to the use of Leonard Aston, one of his sons, for life, and after him to the said Edw. Aston, and his heirs for ever.) | | | |
| Six messuages, arable, pasture, and meadow lands and woods in Uttoxeter, woodlands, and March- ington woodlands, holden of the queen's honor of Tutbury, in the Dutchy of Lancaster, in free socage for allegiance only, and a rent of 6d a year. An- nual value | 20 | 7 | 10 |
| (Infeoffment to Sir Edw. Aston, Knt. and after his death to Antony, one of his sons, and afterwards to Sir Edward, and his heirs for ever.) | | | |
| Manor of Tixsall, Bramcotte, Hanyate, etc. holden of the queen, as of her barony of Stafford, in free so- cage, viz. for following the court, and allegiance only. Annual Value..... | 55 | 0 | 0 |
| Certain messuages and lands in Brockton, held of Ed- ward, Earl of Oxford, as of his manor of Acton- Trussel, in free socage, etc..... | 4 | 2 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| Certain messuages, lands, etc. in Wollaston and Onne, held of the queen, as of hermanor of Church- eaton. A. V..... | 15 | 16 | 10 |
| Certain messuages, lands, etc. in Longdon, held of H. Lord Paget, by an annual rent of 22s. A. V. 10 12 8 | | | |
| Certain messuages, lands, etc. in Rugeley, held of H. Lord Paget, as of his manor of Cannock. Rent 8d. per ann. A. V..... | 1 | 14 | 6 |
| Certain messuages, lands, etc. in Shutborow and Haywood, held of Lord Paget, by annual rent of 27s. 6d. A. V..... | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| Certain messuages, etc. in Bromley Regis, held of Roger Partridge. A. V..... | 5 | 15 | 4 |
| Certain messuages, etc. in Packington, held of Wm. Stanford, as of his manor of Packington. A. V... 0 10 0 | | | |
| Certain lands, etc. in Shareshill, held of Simon Har- court, as of his manor of Shareshull, by a rent of 2od. per ann. A. V..... | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| The third part of the manor of Leigh, held of Lord Paget, as of his manor of Burton upon Trent, by a rent of 26s. 8d. A. V..... | 20 | 4 | 10 |
| Certain lands and tenements in Stafford, held of the queen. A. V..... | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Certain lands, etc. in Colton, held of Wm. Gresley, Knt. as of his manor of Colton. A. V..... 0 6 8 | | | |
| Certain lands, etc. in Hixton, held of Wm. Greisley, Knt. as of his manor of Morton, by an annual rent of 8s. A. V..... | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Certain lands, etc. in Kingston, held of Wm. Greis- ley, Knt. as of his manor of Kingston, by annual rent of 12d. A. V..... | 0 | 8 | 0 |

| | | | |
|--|----|----|------------|
| Manor of Hulton, etc. and rectory of Milwich, with the advowson of the vicarage of the same, and rents from certain lands, as in Grymshill and Oulton, held of the queen, in cap. by an annual rent of 12s. 8. A. V..... | 29 | 15 | 2 |
| Manor of Bradnop, held of the queen, in cap. by a rent of 28. 5d. A. V..... | 20 | 2 | 5 |
| Manor of Mathfield, held of the queen in cap. rent 37s. 8 <i>1</i> d. A. V..... | 16 | 19 | 5 <i>1</i> |
| Certain lands in Stafford, Marston near Stafford, Myxton and Oncote, held of the queen in cap. A. V. 10 0 0 | | | |
| Lands in Bagott's Bromley, held of Rich. Bagot, Esq. by 17d. rent. A. V..... | 10 | 0 | 0 |

City of Litchfield and Coventry

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Lands in Coventry. A.V..... | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Lands in Lichfield..... | 0 | 2 | 0 |

County of Derby.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Manor of Eddleston. A. V..... | 15 | 8 | 6 |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|

County of Warwick.

| | | | |
|---|----|---|---|
| Manor of Beawdesert, and its appurt. in Beawdesert and Wooton Wawyn..... | 26 | 7 | 6 |
| Manor of Pinley..... | 15 | 6 | 8 |

County of Leicester.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----|---|---|
| Manor of Onlep..... | 51 | 7 | 2 |
| Lands in Seaston..... | 5 | 5 | 6 |
| Lands in Illesley-Walton..... | 0 | 8 | 8 |

| | <i>L.</i> | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------------------------|
| Lands in Bristall..... | 1 | 15 | 4 |
| Do. in Overtowne Sawey | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| Do. in Barklye..... | 2 | 8 | 6 |
| Do. in Rodeley | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | <i>L.</i> | <i>349</i> | <i>14</i> <u><i>2½</i></u> |

With respect to the amount of the rents in this Schedule, I shall observe 1st. That it is well known that in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, landlords did not receive more than an eighth of their rents in money ; the remainder being paid in kind, and by services. 2dly, That the price of provisions was from 1-4th to 1-5th of the present value. These estates must have been equal to at least 20,000*l.* or 50,000*l.* a year at this time.

Edward Aston, the eldest son and heir of Sir Walter, was only 19 years of age, at the death of his father ; and being a minor, was according to the custom of the feudal times, a ward of Queen Elizabeth. On his coming of age, about the year 1571, he received from her majesty the honour of knighthood. It appears that on this occasion, he was not made a simple knight, but a knight banneret, the highest honour of chivalry. I have mentioned above, that Sir John Aston, the great grandfather of Sir Edward, was made a knight banneret by the king in person on the field of battle after a victory. This was certainly the most honourable and distinguished manner in which the dignity of banneret could be conferred ; but we learn from St. Palaye, in his interesting "Memoirs of Chivalry," that if a knight was rich and powerful enough to furnish the state with a certain number of armed men, and to entertain them at his own expence, they allowed him to add to the simple title of knight, or knight bachelor, the more noble and exalted title of knight banneret. This

gave him the distinction of carrying a square banner at the top of his lance, whereas that of a simple knight was extended in two points: and the same ceremonies were used at his being made a banneret, as at the institution of barons, viscounts, marquises, and dukes. He claimed moreover, by right, the same rank that was expressed on the coats of arms of those noblemen.

In the house of Mr. Levet at Lichfield, there is a portrait of Sir Edward Aston, inscribed "Sir Edward Aston, knight banneret, Anno Domini 1575, ætatis suæ 22." He holds in one hand a medallion suspended to a gold chain, and bearing the figure of a woman, probably the picture of Queen Elizabeth.

In the year 1587, Sir Edward Aston was at the head of the commission appointed by Queen Elizabeth, to examine the letters and seal up the papers and effects of Mary Queen of Scots, who was then a prisoner at Chartley-castle. It was at this time that Babington's plot for carrying off the Queen of Scots, was discovered. He had intended to surprise her guards and attendants, and to carry her off while she was taking the exercise of riding in the fields between Chartley and Stafford.

In the 36th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Edward Aston was appointed high sheriff of Staffordshire, an office of honour and trust, which every one of his ancestors had discharged from the time of King Edward III. and indeed, the lustre of his descent, his noble alliances, and the extent of his property, might justly have entitled him to any degree of rank and honour.

Sir Edward Aston was twice married, and both his wives were of very high and illustrious descent. The first was Mary, third daughter of Sir John Spencer, Knt. of Althorp, in the county of Northampton, ancestor of Earl Spencer, who died without issue. His second was Anne, only daughter of Sir Thomas Lucy, Knt.

of Charlecote, in the county Warwick. By her he had three sons and five daughters.

His third daughter Anne, married Ambrose Elton, Esq. of Hasel, in the county of Hereford. One of their daughters called Gertrude, was married to Abraham Blackleech, Gent. of the county of Gloucester. This lady erected to the memory of her husband in Gloucester cathedral, a very costly altar-tomb of white marble, executed in Italy, from a desigui of Vandyke, on which is the following epitaph :

“ To the happy memorie of Abraham Blackleech, Gent. sonne of William Blackleech, Esq. a man not only generally belovd in his life, but endeared to posterity by rare examples of seldom patterned piety, expressed in his bounti to St. Paule's in London, to this church, to the high wayes about, and the poor in this citye, who layeing aside the vileness of mortality was admitted to the glory of eternity, November the 50th 1659. Gertrude his wife, daughter of Ambrose Elton, and Anne sister to Walter Lord Aston, hath erected this monument as a testimony of his fame and her observance.”

About sixty years ago, a monument was erected to the memory of Anne and Ambrose Elton, by one of their descendants, in Ledbury church, on which is this inscription :

“ Near this place were interred the bodies of Ambrose Elton of the Hazle, in this parish, and Anne his wife, whose virtues and social qualities justly deserve to be perpetuated. He was born in 1578, and at 12 years of age enjoyed a fellowship in Brazen Nose College, Oxford, that was founded by one of his family. He was in the commission of the peace upwards of 50 years, which trust he executed with great integrity and ability. Anne his wife was daughter of Sir Edward Aston, knight banneret, and sister to Walter Lord Aston of Tixall, in the county of Stafford, by whom he had three sons, and 14 daughters : and from their own loins



SIR WALTER ASTON
K.B. AND BARONET
FIRST LORD ASTON.

From a Miniature in the Epitaph of Sir Thos. Clifford Bart.

they lived to see above 120 children. He died 19 Feb. 1659. His wife died 5 Feb. 1660. In memory of whom this monument was erected by one of their great grandsons, Thomas Levet, Esq. of the city of Lichfield, 1753."

Above the inscription the arms of Elton impaling those of Aston.

Sir Edward Aston died in 1598. Sir Walter, his eldest son, being a minor at the time of his father's death, was given in wardship, by Queen Elizabeth, to the famous Sir Edward Coke, afterwards lord chief justice of the court of King's Bench. Soon after he came of age, he was made a knight of the Bath at the Coronation of James I. On this occasion, the celebrated poet Drayton attended upon him as his esquire. Sir Walter Aston appears to have imbibed, at an early age, a decided taste for literature and poetry ; for we find that Drayton dedicated to him his "Epistle of the Black Prince" in his collection of "Heroic Epistles," in 1598, at which time Sir Walter was about eighteen years old. But a long intimacy must have subsisted between them, as most of Drayton's subsequent poems were inscribed to Sir Walter, (1) and it is probable that several of them were composed at Tixall, as may be gathered from the following lines of the Polyolbion :

Trent, by Tixall graced, the Astons' ancient seat,
Which oft the Muse hath found her safe and sweet retreat.

.

Whose bounty still my Muse so freely shall confess,
That when she lacketh words, her sigus shall it express.

SONG xii.

Sir Walter lived also in habits of intimacy with Sir Richard Fan-

(1) See Appendix to Tixall Poetry.

shaw, the translator of Camoens, who died at Madrid in 1666. He was created a baronet in the year 1611, at the first institution of that dignity. In 1618 he was appointed steward of the honour of Tutbury, constable of the castle, and ranger of all the royal forests in Staffordshire and Derbyshire, except the High Peak, during pleasure. This dignity was restored to him 7 Car. 1, 1652. In 1619 he was sent ambassador into Spain, to manage the nice and difficult proposal of a marriage between Charles Prince of Wales, and the Infanta, daughter of Philip III. in which, says his grandson, “ he proceeded with great prudence and warynesse, and with a sincere zeale to have served his prince, yet was a true and fast friend to the then Duke of Buckingham.”(1) He was indeed nearly connected with that celebrated favourite, his first cousin, the Earl of Denbigh, having married in 1607, Susan Villiers, the duke’s sister. Sir Walter was born and bred a Protestant; but during his residence in Spain he embraced the Roman Catholic Faith, which all his descendants have invariably adhered to. Among his papers is found a full statement of the conscientious reasons, which induced him to take this step. He returned to England, just after the death of King James, and was created by letters patent, dated 28th Nov. 1627, Baron Aston, of Forfar in the kingdom of Scotland, with all the privileges belonging to a peer of that realm. In 1655, he was again sent ambassador into Spain, where he continued about three years. He returned to England in 1658, and died the year following.

“ Hee was seised at the time of his going into Spain, of divers manors and lordships, lyng in the countyes of Stafford, Warwick, Derby and Leicestre, to y^e no lesse value than of 10,000*l.* per an. the greatest part of which he lost and dispended in that service.” (2)

(1) Exautogr. Dom. Gualt. Bar. de Aston, nepotis, penes me.

(2) Exautogr. præd.

Lord Aston had a grant from the crown for his life, of a house and piece of ground of about four acres and a half, near St. James's Park, called the **Mulberry Garden**, with a salary annexed to it of £60. a year. It is supposed to be the site of what is called the Queen's House, or Buckingham House. It is the title of one of Sir Charles Sedley's comedies. (1)

Lord Aston has a place among Lloyd's "Worthies." "There was in his countenance," says that author, "such a throne of sweetness, and his words had so powerful a charm, set off with so agreeable and taking gravity, that the *respect* due to him was not lost in the *love* he had deserved; nor the *love* he attained to abated by the *respect* he commanded." (2)

There is a portrait of him painted on board in Lord Bagot's house at Blithfield; and another, full length, at Bellamore, the seat of Edw. Blount, Esq. of which an engraving is given in Mr. Lodge's "Portraits of Illustrious Men." The countenance in both resembles that of the miniature given in this work.

By Gertrude, his lady, grand-daughter of the great statesman, Sir Ralph Sadler, knt. banneret, he had five sons and five daughters. Of those who lived to man's estate, a particular account is given in the Preface to the Tixall Poetry. His third son, Herbert, was born at Chelsea in 1614, and in 1635, accompanied his father, as secretary, on his second embassy to Madrid. On his return he married Catherine, sister of Sir John Thimelby of Irnham in Lincolnshire, and resided on a small estate which his father gave him, at Colton in Staffordshire, on which he built a house, and called it Bellamour. (3) He died in 1689.

(1) Nich. Leic. v. 2, p. 403.

(2) Worthies, vol. 2, p. 249.

(3) See p. 29 of this work.

His children died without issue ; and about the year 1720, Bellamour-house and estate reverted to the elder branch, till the division of the estates of James, Lord Aston, in 1768. It then devolved to his eldest daughter, the Hon. Lady Blount, who erected there an elegant and very commodious modern mansion, which is now the property, and seat of Edward Blount, Esq. her second son.

Walter, second Lord Aston, was appointed to the stewardship of Tutbury, and the other dignities mentioned above, upon the death of his father. He was however in very embarrassed circumstances ; for it appears, that his father had disposed of landed estates to the amount of 4,000*l.* a year to defray the expence of his embassy in Spain, and had burthened the remainder with a debt of 6000*l.* ; he paid a jointure of 800*l.* a year to his mother, and the remaining income amounted only to 460*l.* a year. In this distress he presented a petition to the king, praying that the arrears of his father's pension, amounting to 1000*l.* might be paid him, and soliciting a grant of Heyling's Park, adjoining to Needwood Forest, containing about 300 acres, and valued at 5*s.* an acre ; but the troubles which broke out at that time prevented any attention being shewn to his request. He adhered constantly to the king's party in the Great Rebellion, and in the beginning of the war had a commission for raising a regiment ; but being suspected of inclining too much to the Roman Catholic Religion, he met with discouragement, and did not proceed in it ; yet his affection never wavered in the royal cause. He lived in the king's garrisons all the time of the war, and was in Lichfield during that memorable siege which lasted 19 weeks. It was one of the last garrisons that held out for the king ; and did not surrender at last but with his majesty's approbation. Lord Aston, who was then joined in commission with Sir Tho. Tildesley, the governor, sent a trusty servant in the habit of a labouring man, with a letter

to the king ; and in that disguise he got safe to his majesty at Newcastle, and brought back the following answer, written in the king's own hand, which is still extant :

“ Newcastle 6 June 1646.

My Lord Aston and Tildesley

The greatest of my misfortunes is that I cannot reward such gallant and loyal subjects as you are, as I ought or would : for the present I must deal freely with you, and give you my directions ; which is, that I can give you no relief, but I desire you to hold out till Oxford be rendered : which will be ranked amongst the rest of the good services done by you to

Your most assured friend

Charles R.

For the Lord Aston and Sir Thos. Tildesley.”

When Oxford was surrendered, and no conditions made for them in the articles, as was expected, they made the best they could for themselves, but were only permitted to go to their own habitations, and compound for their estates.

By the kindness of Mrs. Ricketts, sister to the Earl of St. Vincent, I am in possession of some letters written by Lord Aston to her ancestor, John Swynfen, member of parliament for the borough of Tamworth, who have been always a strong abettor of the parliamentary cause, appears to have had great influence with that party. I will here give such extracts as may interest the reader :

“ Noble Sir,

I shall at all tymes acknowledge your cyvlyty and compassy-
onatyng my sad condytyon, and uppon all occatyonis offered truly
serve you. Sir, I heard my brother Weston moved you in a bu-

synesse concerning me, it was truly accordyng to my necessitous condytyon, and I desyred in y^e moving off itt he wold acknowledge y^t I was mnch oblyged to y^e committee, and he would, by your means only, let them know my truly necessyty, and y^t w^t flavour I received from them in it, I shall acknowledge at all tymes to be your and their love to me. I have no ends in all my buysyness but a small lyvelyness to my wife and children, and, if possible, to pay my necessitous creditors something, which I shall not be able to effect without your and y^e committtees' friendly assistance, which shall be deserved with all service y^t lyeth in my power to you and y^e committee. I rest

Your oblyged friend and servant,

Walter Aston.

Dunstable Ma : 7.

To my much honored good friend Mr. Swinfen these."

It appears that Mr. Swinfen did obtain from the committee an allowance of 90l. a year for his wife and children; after which Lord Aston sent to him the following statement.

" My case truly stated—

In the year 1659 Walter Lord Aston my father deceased imme-diately after his return from his second embassy into Spayne, in which imployment for this kingdom he spent 4000l. a yeare land, which should have descended uppon mee, and left me ingaged for 6000l. He left me an estate in present of 460l. a yeare, and other 800l. after my mother's decease; in both which estates I have but a bare estate for life. Uppon this I made my reparayre up to London to his Majesty to beg relief. His Majesty was graciously pleased to give me y^e command in Need-wood y^t my lord Denbigh now holds, and uppon my petytyon for

recleife referrd my buysynesse to y^e then Lord Tresorcr, and y^t a commytyon should be sent out to survey Heyling's Parke land and wood y^t I might have a stay till his Maj: should find some other way to relieve me: whilst I was in pursuance of this, this sad war broke out, my creditors fell violently upon mee, I could not without certainty of imprisonment remane at my owne house. Being forced to leave it, I sent for Mr. Thorley, desyred him if in my abscence my estate were sequestered for leaving my house, he would let them know, y^t if I might be suffered to live quietly at my house, I would return and upon my summons answer any thing that could be objected against me: nor was there any forces of y^e parliaments' within ten mile of me, if any in the county of Stafford then in y^e king's hands. During my abode in y^e king's garysons by my endeavor I have helped many to their libertys, some of them tenants to my estate sequestered, never so much as demanding any rent of them, nor did I ever molest any who rented my sequestered estate. I am now reduced to y^t necessity y^t I am not worth 200*l.*

My estate past at my marriage was. L.460

| | |
|---|-----|
| Annuityes alreddy allowed by y ^e committee | 250 |
|---|-----|

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Allowed to my wife and children. | 90 |
|---------------------------------------|----|

| | |
|--|--|
| | <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> |
|--|--|

L.540

So that if my estate were set at the heighth that it could aryse to it would advantage the state yearly 120*l.* And then all those my credytors which I owe y^e 6000 pound to must starve, many of them having at this instance not bread to put in their mouths."

But Lord Aston lived to see better times. At the Restoration in 1660, he was reinstated in the stewardship of Tutbury, etc;

and in the same year the manor-house and lordship of Standon, co. Herts, devolved to him by the death of his maternal uncle, Ralph Sadler, Esq. without issue.

Standon became from this time the chief residence of the family. Lord Aston had no farther reward, says Wotton, (1) for his loyal services and sufferings, but the obtaining letters patent in 1663 to him and his heirs, for a market to be held on Friday in every week, and two several fairs every year in the town of Standon.

Lord Aston was again exposed to trouble in the close of his life, as may be seen by the following letter to Mr. Swinfen, which is without date; but appears from the context to have been written more than twenty years after the one last quoted.

“ Sir

I shall, I believe, leave not only this country, but this natyon, in May next. For I cannot conceive it prudence to lyve, where I shall be put out of y^e protection of my king, and y^e laws of the natyon: which is to me severe, to be put to wander, at the age of 67; and being a hundred thousand pounds y^e worse in my estate, for my father's and my faythfulness to my king, and for y^e honor and service of this natyon. Yet this is likely to be my condytyon; for I was the last assizes but one, unjustly indycted, as a popish recusant: y^e last assizes I travers'd it, next it will come to a tryal, when and where I doubt not but I shall be most unjustly convicted. It is true I have long conversed with papists, and truly love and honor them, and upon these grounds, y^t any person of y^t fayth or professyon, if he acts as y^t relygion or beleefe dyrects him, hee must love God above all things, obey the king as God's sole deputy to him in all thing,

(1) Wotton's Baronetage, edit. of 1714.

love his neighbor as himselfe, and must be y^e same, if he live so long, a hundred yeares hence, as hee is at this present : and certaynely constant princyple, never varyed, is fitter for to bee governed, and for socyety, than giddy changeable uncertayneutes. Rygide truth is my principle, and God's will be done.—Pray pardon this tedyous letter, and as y^u are a prudent person, pitty, though y^u doe not approve, all my weaknesses and follyes, and I rest

Your faithful and humble servant

Walter Aston.

Nov. 1, Tixall.

These—for my truly honored good frend Mr. John Swinfen—these—

In the House of Commons——Franck—”

Lord Aston died 25d April, 1678, aged 69, and was buried in the church of St. Mary at Stafford.

Walter, third Lord Aston, was born in 1635. He professed the Roman Catholic Religion ; and from that circumstance, was not only condemned to live in obscurity, but had his full share in those strange persecutions which the clamour against Popery excited in his time. He lived in habits of great intimacy with the unfortunate Viscount Stafford, fifth son of Thomas, Earl of Arundell, who having wedded Mary, sister and heir of Henry Stafford, Lord Stafford, (the last heir male of the illustrious family of Stafforud, Duke of Buckingham, etc.) resided at his ancient mansion of Stafforud-castle, five miles distant from Tixall.

About the latter end of November 1678, Lord Aston having discovered that Stephen Dugdale, his Steward, had been guilty of frāudulent practices, and was indebted to him 500l., suddenly dismissed him from his service. This man had long had a very indifferent character, was much addicted to gambling, and had

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often injured his lordship's credit in the country, by withholding the wages due to the labourers and workmen in his service ; but his master would not listen to any accusations against him, till he at length detected him himself. At this time the whole country was filled with the alarms which Titus Oates had excited of a Popish Plot and a foreign invasion ; it was concluded that Dugdale, who immediately absconded, was involved in the plot, and fled for fear of detection. Some days after, passing through Great Haywood, near Tixall, at a late hour of the night, he was seized by the watch, and was brought early the next morning before Sir Walter Bagot, who took him to Stafford, where there was a meeting of justices, in consequence of an alarm that the Papists had risen in Derbyshire, but in his way called upon my Lord Aston at Tixall, to know if he would protect Dugdale as his servant, which he refused. Hence it was not likely that Dugdale could be the depository of secrets which involved the safety of his lordship and his friends. Being come to Stafford, he took the oaths of allegiance and supremacy which were tendered to him, but positively denied any knowledge whatever of the plot. However he was thrown into gaol by one of his creditors, having many debts about the country ; and being informed of the king's proclamation, granting a free pardon and 200*l.* to any one who would make discoveries relating to the Plot before the 25th December, then next ensuing, he yielded to interested motives ; and on the 24th December 1678, gave information upon oath before two justices of the peace at Stafford, to the following effect, viz. :

That he had seen Lord Stafford at Tixall, on the 20th of September preceding, who had informed him that there was a plan for introducing the Catholic Religion and dethroning the king, and that he must be party to it ; and some days afterwards he further deposed, that Lord Stafford had offered him 500*l.* to kill the king. At the time Dugdale made this deposition, Lord Stafford

was confined in the Tower, where he had been committed on the 25th October preceding, with four other Roman Catholic Lords, (the Earl of Powis, Lords Petre, Arundell, and Bellasyse), on an accusation of high treason, preferred against them by Titus Oates.

On the twenty-eighth of January 1679, Mr. William Aston, Lord Aston's brother, having refused to give evidence about a wallet, said by Dugdale to have been in the closet of the Rev. Mr. Evers, chaplain at Tixall, was taken into custody. (1) It is probable that Lord Aston was sent to the Tower not long after ; as it appears from the evidence on Lord Stafford's trial, that his lordship was there in the month of January 1680, for Dugdale mentions his going there at that time to settle accounts with him. The 18th May of that year Lord Aston, Sir James Simeon, Mr. Heveningham, and Mr. Peters, were indicted at Westminster for high treason, and pleaded not guilty : and on the 25th June following, were set at liberty upon bail till the next term. (2) His lordship was taken up on the evidence of Dugdale. There was in Tixall Bowling-green, destroyed about thirty years ago, a shed with seats for the accommodation of the bowlers, under the shade of a large spreading oak ; this wretch deposed, according to the tradition of the family, that concealed behind this tree, he had overheard a treasonable conversation of the Lords Aston and Stafford, who, under pretence of playing at bowls, had repaired thither to plot against the government. On the 50th November 1680, the trial of Lord Stafford was opened in Westminster-Hall. Dugdale deposed upon oath before the peers, that some day in August or September 1678, he was admitted on the recommendation of Mr. Evers, the chaplain at Tixall, to a consult there, at which assisted Lord Aston, Lord

(1) Pointer's Chronology.

(2) Ibid.

Stafford, and several other gentlemen : that they resolved the speediest means to introduce their religion was to take away the king's life ; to which resolution each person present gave his particular full assent. Lord Aston was at this time returned to the Tower ; in the course of the trial Lord Stafford asked that his lordship might be sent for from thence to give his evidence, which was refused on the ground of his being under a similar accusation of high treason. The fate of this unfortunate nobleman is well known. After a trial which lasted seven days, he was found guilty of high treason ; and on the 29th December 1680, he was beheaded on Tower-hill. (1) The dignified firmness of his demeanour on this occasion, his religious resignation, and the solemn protestations he made of his innocence, opened the eyes of the deluded multitude present, and indeed of the infatuated nation ; and the axe, that struck off his head, at the same time gave the plot its death-blow. The venerable oak above-mentioned still lives a standing memorial of the injustice of the times in which it flourished.

“ The proceedings on the Popish Plot ” says Mr. Fox, “ must always be considered as an indelible disgrace upon the English nation ; in which king, parliament, judge, juries, witnesses, prosecutors, have all their respective, though certainly not equal shares. Witnesses of such a character as not to deserve credit in the most trifling cause, upon the most immaterial facts, gave evidence so incredible, or to speak more properly, so impossible to be true, that it ought not to have been believed if it had come from the mouth of Cato ; and upon such evidence from such witnesses, were innocent men condemned to death and executed. Prosecutors, whether attorneys and solicitors-general,

(1) See above pp. 121, 122, 123.

or managers of impeachments, acted with the fury which in such circumstances might be expected ; juries partook naturally enough of the national ferment ; and judges, whose duty it was to guard them against such impressions, were scandalously active in confirming them in their prejudices, and inflaming their passions. The king, who is supposed to have disbelieved the whole of the plot, never once exercised his glorious prerogative of mercy.”(1)

However Lord Aston had in some degree his revenge. On the trial of Titus Oates for perjury, which took place May 9, 1685, his lordship, and his nephew Sir Edward Southcote, were sub-pœna'd to give evidence. The object of their examination was to prove, that Mr. Wm. Ireland, a Roman Catholic priest, who was executed for high treason in 1678, upon the oath of Titus Oates, was not on the first of September of that year in London, where Oates had then sworn to have seen him at that time. To this effect they depose, that in the beginning of August 1678, Mr. Ireland came down to Lord Aston's, at Standon in Hertfordshire ; that on the 5th, Lord Aston took him to St. Albans, where they met with Sir John and Lady Southcote, and their sons Sir Edward and John Southcote ; (2) that they travelled all together to Tixall ; that on the 15th August, they set out from Tixall to Holywell, accompanied by the Dowager Lady Aston, and returned thither again on the 16th ; and that on the 1st of September, Ireland was at Mr. Gerard's, at Hilderston in Staffordshire ; that he was again at Tixall on the 8th September ; and on the 9th, set out with Sir John Southcote, and accompanied him into Surrey. In consequence of this and other evidence, Oates was convicted of perjury, and was sentenced to pay a fine of two thousand marks,

(1) Hist. of James 2, p 36.

(2) “ At Albery, was formerly a capital mansion-house, the residence of

to be imprisoned for life, to stand twice in the pillory, to be twice publicly whipped, and afterwards to stand in the pillory five different days in each year for the remainder of his life.

We have no record how long Lord Aston was confined in the Tower. During part of the short reign of James II. he discharged the high office of lord lieutenant of the county of Stafford, and in the month of November 1688, when the Prince of Orange had made good his landing, he and Lord Molineux threw themselves into Chester, in order to preserve it for the king.(1) Charles, his fourth son, Captain of the band of Greenwich Pensioners, was slain at the battle of the Boyne in 1690. Lord Aston died in 1714, aged 81.

Walter, fourth Lord Aston, was the third son of Walter, the third lord. His two elder brothers died unmarried in the prime

the Southcotes. The family were Roman Catholics, and are said to have quitted in disgust, on being refused burial for one of them in the chancel,

"The house was called Albery-place, and was taken down in 1750. The chapel is said to have been very splendid. The loss of this family was long felt in the parish, and a grateful remembrance of their extensive charities has been handed down to the present day. During their residence no calamity or casualty happened to an individual; no unproductive season occasioned a scarcity, but ready assistance was given. The last Lady Southcote is said to have been constantly stationed, at certain well known times, on her garden terrace overlooking the road, prepared to hear every petition, and to answer every claim on her benevolence.

"Such," adds the present worthy Rector in giving this account, "was the family to whom burial in the church was refused, because they were Roman Catholics!"—Mannings's Surrey, vol. 2, p. 260.

Lady Southcote, wife of Sir John above-mentioned, was eldest daughter of Walter, second Lord Aston, and of Lady Mary Westou, Earl of Portland, lord high treasurer, and sister of Walter, third Lord Aston.

(1) Lyson's Cheshire, p. 590.

of life. He was born about the year 1661, and resided chiefly at Standon Lordship. The severity of the penal laws against Catholics, (which in their sanguinary provisions, have never been equalled since the days of Draco) together with the obloquy which had fallen on the followers of the ancient religion which he professed, compelled him, like his father, to live in privacy and retirement : but these untoward circumstances, common to him, and to many others of the oldest and most illustrious families in this realm, did not prevent him

“ In the calm majesty of private life,”

from exercising all the virtues which can adorn and ennoble such a station.

He married Mary, only daughter of Lord Thomas Howard, and sister to Thomas and Edward, Dukes of Norfolk, and died in 1747.(1)

James, fifth Lord Aston, was the fifth son and youngest child of Walter, the fourth lord. This nobleman was remarkable for his good humour and easy temper, and for his affability and condescension to all ranks of people. He died in August 1751(2) of the small pox, which he caught in attending the funeral of a friend at Stafford. The symptoms of the disorder were uncommonly violent ; which, together with the mode of treatment practised in those days, soon brought him to an untimely grave. He had married in 1744, Lady Barbara Talbot, eldest daughter of George, 14th Earl of Shrewsbury, by Mary, daughter of Thomas, Viscount Fitzwilliam, of the kingdom of Ireland. By this lady, who survived him, and died at Paris in 1759, he had two daughters and coheiresses : 1. Mary, married in 1766 to Sir Walter Blount, Bart. of Soddington and

(1) Erroneously, 1744, in Genealogy, p. 153.

(2) Erron. 1749. Ibid.

Mawley, co. Worc. 2. Barbara, married in 1761, to the Hon. Thomas Clifford, youngest son of Hugh, third Lord Clifford, of Chudleigh in Devonshire.

Lord Aston was interred in the church of St. Mary's, Stafford, in the burying place of the Aston family, which is situated near the north door, and protected by an iron railing.

On a flat stone on the pavement is this inscription :

Here lieth the body of the Right Hon. James Lord Aston of Tixall, Baron of Forfar, who died Aug. 20, 1751, aged 28.

Adjoining is a very handsome monument of various coloured marbles, by the skilful hand of James Moore of London. In the lower part is a large tablet of white marble, on which is the following inscription :

Sacred to the memory of the Hon. Barbara Clifford, youngest daughter and coheiress to James, Lord Aston ; a faithful, patient, compliant wife, a tender and affectionate mother, an indulgent careful mistress, giving good example to her children and family by her piety, mildness, and good nature ; humane, charitable, benevolent, and compassionate to the poor. Endowed with every virtue and good quality that adorns her sex. She was a pattern for all wives and mothers ; and leaving a numerous family of twelve children : she died after a miscarriage, the 2d August 1786, aged 59 years.—R. I. P.

Above the tablet is a pyramid of dove-coloured marble, in front of which is a sarcophagus, resting on the tablet, whereon is this inscription :

This monument was erected by order of the Hon. Thomas

Clifford to the memory of the Hon. Barbara Clifford, his beloved wife, whom he survived but ten months and sixteen days. His life was a pattern of every social and moral virtue, and his *death* of heroic patience, resignation, and Christian piety.—Aged 54 years.—R. I. P.

At the further end is a monument to the memory of the Hon. Lady Blount. A sarcophagus of white marble supports a Phoenix rising out of flames, very boldly executed. Behind is a pyramid of black marble, on which is inscribed in gold letters :

Mary, eldest daughter and coheiress of James, fifth Lord Aston. Born Aug. 14, 1745. Married Sept. 21, 1766, to Sir Walter Blount, Bart.—Perished by fire Jan. 30, 1805.—R. I. P.

Matri pientissimæ Georgius filius natu minimus mærens posuit.

On the Sarcophagus are inscribed the following lines :

The fabled bird, who, when his days expire,
Soars from his funeral pile on wings of fire,
Too true an emblem on this tomb appears
Of her, whose fate still claims our tenderest tears.
But though our deep-struck bosoms bleed anew,
Whene'er this mournful monument we view,
Yet Faith will teach us, weeping o'er her shrine,
To lift our thoughts to images divine—
Enflam'd with heavenly zeal for things above,
She lived and died a holocaust of love ;
Cleans'd from all dross, to her pure soul 'twas given
To rise a flaming sacrifice to heaven.

A. C.

On the death of James, fifth Lord Aston, without male issue,

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the title reverted to the descendants of William Aston of Milwich, fourth son of Sir Edward Aston, Knt. and uncle of Walter the first lord.

Thus ended this ancient line, which for the space of more than 500 years, was continued from father to son, through 18 generations : from Ralph de Aston, who flourished about the middle of the 15th century, down to James, fifth Lord Aston, who died in 1751 ; and whose grandson still possesses the property at Haywood, granted about the year 1280 to Roger de Aston, the second, upon record of that family—two circumstances, scarcely to be paralleled in the history of genealogical descents in this kingdom.

The arms of this family have always been argent, a fess, and three lozenges in chief, sable. (1) The ancient crest, was, on a thin *velamen*, or bonnet, gules turned up ermine, a bull's horns, argent, pointed or, tipped sable.

This was afterwards changed to the following :

On a wreath of his colour, a bull's head couped, or, armed argent, the tips of his horns sable.

The supporters—two Roman knights, in their proper armament, face, hands, and knees bare ; with round bucklers on their exterior arms ; their scabbards, sable, sword-hilts and chapes, or.

(1) Robert Aston, second son of Roger and Sybilla, had for his arms argent, a fess and two ogresses in chief, sable.—(Chetw. MS.)—In an ancient heraldic MS. given in the Antiquarian Repository, vol. 1, p. 81, which contains the arms of ancient nobility in the time of Henry III. the arms of Sir John de Aston of Northamptonshire, who was probably the elder brother of Roger de Aston, are stated to be sable, a saltier argent. The arms of Aston of Cheshire are sable and argent, party per chevron. These slight variations in arms to distinguish the different branches of a family were very common, before the heralds adopted the label, crescent, mullet, etc. for that purpose.

The motto taken by the first lord, was Spanish : *Contra el rāpido muevo* : I move against the torrent : by which he probably alluded to the numerous obstacles he met with, in the conduct of the mysterious business of his first embassy to Spain.

This was afterwards changed to *Numini et Patriæ Asto* : I stand up for God and my country—a motto, which, while it contains an allusion to the name of Aston, is happily expressive of that heroic sentiment, by which, those who have borne it, appear to have been uniformly actuated and guided in every situation and emergency of their lives.

Eis òscaros àgitos àmuvesbarige πατόγες.



Z O O L O G Y
O F
T I X A L L,
AND ITS IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

QUADRUPEDS.

Bos Taurus. Chartley-park, about four miles from Tixall, is among the few places where the indigenous wild cattle of Britain are still to be found. The breed has been here preserved pure and unmixed, having been constantly confined in a separate inclosure. The following external appearances distinguish these cattle from all other kinds : their colour is invariably white, muzzles and ears black, horns white tipped with black. This native wildness appears at the first approach of men ; the whole herd instantly sets off full speed to a considerable distance, and then wheels round, at the same time staring with eager curiosity.

Cervus Elaphus, the Stag. *Cervus Dama*, the Fallow Deer. About twenty-five years ago, Tixall Park was inhabited by about twenty stags and hinds, and more than two hundred head of fallow deer. A few stags were also kept at that time in Wolseley Park. But their ferociousness at the rutting season, the coarseness of their flesh, and the quantity of food they consume,

have caused them gradually to disappear throughout England. In the highlands of Scotland, herds of four or five hundred head are still to be met with, ranging at full liberty over the vast hills of the North. The fallow deer at Tixall were celebrated for the fineness of their flavour, but were destroyed some years ago to make room for more useful animals : they were of the dark brown species, which are said to have been introduced here by James I. out of Norway. Fallow deer are hardly known in France, and are never kept for the purposes of the table ; indeed this is the only country where they are confined in parks. Many hundreds of them stray unrestrained over the neighbouring forest of Cannock, and commit their depredations on the adjoining inclosures with impunity. (1)

Ovis Aries. Flocks of sheep of Merino, and Anglo-Merino breed, were introduced here some years since from the admired flocks of Lord Somerville and Mr. Tollet. On the superior fineness of their fleeces it is unnecessary to expatiate ; but its not yet sufficiently known, that this is a very hardy race of animals, not much affected by severe cold, nor nice in its food, nor of difficult parturition. Its mutton is exquisitely delicate.

Mustela Lutra, the Otter. The waters in Tixall are much infested with this animal, so destructive to fish. By the spoils which are sometimes found on the water-side, it is evident that they feed on fish of the largest size. An otter, was one morning surprised on the banks of the navigable canal, just as he had drawn out of the water an eel of unusual magnitude. Perceiv-

(1) Dr. Plot informs us, (*Hist. of Staff. ch. 7, § 78*) that in his memory an itinerant dromedary died at Tixall, through the negligence of his keeper, “ and was buried (where he died) in Tixall Field,” (a large common field lying towards Haywood, now inclosed and subdivided) “ whose bones hereafter, if ever found, may create much wonder.”

ing himself discovered, he had only time to bite off the head of his prey, and to make his escape. The eel was served up the same day to a large company, who had never been supplied before by so uncommon a caterer.

Lepus Timidus. The hare abounds in this parish, which from its numerous and well disposed plantations, the dryness of its soil, and its southern aspect, is admirably calculated for the preservation of every species of game. It is not unusual here at one point of view, to see fifteen or twenty of these timid animals disporting together.

Lepus Cuniculus. The rabbits in this parish are too numerous in some parts, and the frequent attempts which have been made to extirpate them, have never been crowned with complete success. They do infinite mischief in young plantations in severe weather, by barking the trees, and biting off the leading shoots.

Mustela Erminea. The stoat is the natural enemy of the two last mentioned species : it infests the woods of Tixall. A large hare was one day observed hurrying across the lawn with the utmost terror and precipitation, bearing one of these cruel blood-suckers on her back, with its claws entangled in her fur, and its mouth affixed to her side—

Non missura cutem nisi plena crux.

The terrified animal would probably continue to run till she dropped down dead with fatigue and loss of blood.

Sciurus Vulgaris. The squirrel enlivens the woods by his graceful and rapid movements ; he is accused however of doing much injury to fir plantations, by nipping the leading shoots of the young pines.

Equus Caballus. There is a breed of black draught horses in this part of the country, strong and bony, of which the farmers

are extremely proud ; but they want activity, and consume a great deal of food.

BIRDS.

Falco Chrysactos. The golden eagle : one of these birds was killed some years ago on Cannock Chace, by Sir Edward Littleton's keeper.

Strix flammea. The white owl is the constant tenant of the venerable ruins above described —

From the ivy-mantled tower
The moping owl doth to the moon complain
Of such, as wandering near her secret bower
Molest her antient solitary reign.

Phasianus Colchicus. The pheasant, till of late years, was hardly known in Staffordshire, and many attempts had been made to introduce them, but without success. In the first volume of Shaw's Staffordshire, published in 1798, it is mentioned as a very rare bird. Just about that time, the present owner of Tixall, turned out a couple of cocks and four hens in a protected copse near the house ; they thrrove wonderfully, and at the present day have not only abundantly peopled the parish, but also all the neighbouring manors.

Tetrao Tetrix. The black grouns inhabits the dreary wastes of Cannock Chace, and is found also in Wolseley and Chartley Parks, and in a long tract of boggy land, called Chartley Moss.

Perdix Cinerea. The partridge abounds in the cultivated grounds of Tixall and the adjoining manors, and affords ample diversion in the winter season to the lovers of the gun.

Perdix Coturnix. The quail is extremely rare in these parts. In 1804, a solitary bevy made its appearance in Tixall parish.

Loxia Coccothraustes. Haw Grosbeak. This rare bird emi-

grated into Staffordshire in the year 1795, and some of them were seen in the plantations of Lord Harrowby at Sandon.

Caprimulgus Europaeus. The goat-sucker occasionally visits the Black Heath and its environs. Its notes are most singular: the loudest resembles that of a large spinning wheel; and the noise is so very violent as to give a sensible vibration to any little building on which it chances to alight. Its other note is a sharp squeak, which it repeats often when in pursuit of the female.—(Pennant's Zoology, vol. 1.)

AQUATIC BIRDS.

The situation of Tixall parish, bounded by two rivers, and intersected by a navigable canal, which is expanded into a large lake, (besides a considerable pool in the park) renders it the resort of various water fowl. The following are among the most remarkable:

Ardea Cinerea. The heron infests the waters of Tixall, being a great destroyer of fish. Hunting herons with hawks was a favourite diversion of our ancestors. The heron was then accounted a bird of game, and laws were enacted for its preservation. Any person destroying its eggs was liable to a penalty of twenty shillings for each offence. It was then served up as a delicacy at great tables. This bird has a bed of black feathers below the wings, very long, soft and elegant, which are frequently used to ornament the caps of the knights of the Garter.—(Pennant's Zoology, vol. 2, p. 425.)

Ardea Stellaris. The bittern has sometimes been seen here. Its flesh is said to be preferable to that of the heron; and it is often exposed to sale by the London poulters.

Scolopax Rusticola. The woodcock becomes more scarce here every year. So much land has been drained in this parish of

late years, that there is hardly any to be found of that wet springy ground, which they chiefly delight in. They are still plentiful in Lord Bagot's woods, and the woodlands about Cheadle.

Scolopax Gallinago, the Snipe. Scolopax Gallinula, Jack Snipe. Large flights of these birds are often seen in the meadows between the navigable canal and the river Sow.

Tringa Vanellus. The lapwing.

Charadrius Pluvialis. The golden plover.

Rallus Aquaticus. The water-rail.

Fulica Chloropus. The water-hen, or moor-hen.

Fulica Atra. The coot.

Rallus Crex. The land-rail.

Colymbus Auritus. The little grebe, or dab-chick.

Mergus Merganser. The goosander.

Anas Cygnus, the Swan. This noble bird abounds on the rivers Trent and Sow, and the navigable canal before Tixall.

— with arched neck

Between her white wings mantling, proudly rows

Her state with oary feet.—Par. Lost. b. 7.

Each proprietor of the river has a certain number of swans belonging to him, which are distinguished by one or more notches or nicks on the beak. Those belonging to Tixall have a notch on each side the beak near the point. Formerly the king's swans were marked with two nicks on the beak, and a royal swan was called a swan with two nicks : hence probably came the sign of the *Swan with two Necks*, just as the Bell Savage, (a black woman with a bell) the Bull and Gate, and Bull and Mouth, came from the *Belle Sauvage*, *Boulogne Gate*, and *Boulogne Mouth*. These swans are in a wild state, having no food given them in the severest winter. Twenty or thirty are sometimes seen clustered together in the Trent near Wolsley Bridge.

The swans in pairing time are very vicious and fight furiously ; the weaker bird being driven to a distance, and one of the combatants is frequently killed, or escapes with a broken wing. The *pen* lays from 5 to 8 or 9 eggs, and makes her nest near the river, just out of the reach of the floods ; the common people observe the position of these nests, and whenever they find them placed very near the river, they augur from thence that there will be no spring floods that year.

The swan was formerly a royal bird, and the species was preserved by severe penalties. In those days it graced the tables of the great. Cygnets are to this day fattened at Norwich about Christmas, and sold for a guinea a piece.

As the note of the swan is extremely harsh and disagreeable, it is surprizing that they should have been celebrated not only by the poets but the naturalists in ancient times for the music of their voice, which was supposed to be most melodious in their dying moments. In consequence of this idea, swans are often in their writings compared to poets : Horace calls Pindar the Dircean Swan,

Multa Diræcum levat aura cynum.—Od. 2, lib. 4.

and in another place, seized with a poetical *œstrum*, imagines himself to be covered with the snowy plumage of this favourite bird.—Lib. 2, Od. 20. Pennant, in his Zool. vol. 2, p. 567, accounts for this idea, from the belief entertained by the antients that the body of the swan, according to the Pythagorean doctrine of the transmigration of souls, was allotted for the mansion of the departed poet ; but for what reason swans were thus favoured, remains to be explained.

Anas Nigra. Black diver, or scoter.

Anas Clangula. Golden eye.

Anas Boschas. The wild duck, or mallard.

Anas Penelops. The wigeon.

Anas Crecca. The teal.

Pelecanus Carbo. The corvorant, or cormorant.

Some of the birds here mentioned only make their appearance in very severe winters.

There is also a kind of wild goose brought from the Cape, by Mr. Thomas Anson, (I believe, the *Anas Cana* of Linnæus) which has multiplied, and is now naturalized to this neighbourhood.

FISH.

The best sorts of fish found in the rivers Trent and Sow are pike, perch, eel, and gudgeons in plenty ; more rare are trout, grayling and burbot ; and carp and tench, with which the navigable canal is plentifully stocked, are very scarce in these rivers. Crayfish are found in the brooks which come from Cannock Chace. Lampreys are also taken in the Sow ; and both rivers abound with the coarser sorts of fish, such as barbel, chub, roach, dace, bleak ; and with the smaller sorts, as loach, minnow, ruff, and bull-head. The pike grow to a large size ; one was taken out of the navigable canal on Shrove-Tuesday 1804, which weighed 24 pounds. Its back was flat and broad like a Leicestershire sheep, and its flesh was remarkably firm and delicious to the taste. The burbot is highly esteemed, but is extremely rare.

FLORA TIXALLIANA;

OR,

A CATALOGUE

Of the most remarkable phænogamous PLANTS, to be found within a
morning's ride of Tixall.



The celebrated Dr. Withering, whose History of Indigenous Botany has principally contributed to propagate in this country the study of that delightful science, began his medical career at Stafford; where getting very slowly into employment, (the common fate of most young physicians) he devoted his leisure hours to the study of vegetable nature, and left no part of that neighbourhood unexplored. To the little success he met with in the outset of his profession, is the world indebted for his valuable work, The Botanical Arrangements. From this work are taken the articles in the following List, marked WITH. To which are added, many communications by the present owner of Tixall, marked T. C. and some other persons. Among these many acknowledgements are due to Mr. Forster, surgeon, of Stone, who to the merit of a very skilful practitioner, adds that of a scientific botanist. In this catalogue, the classification of Dr. Smith, in his Flora Britannica, is followed instead of that of Thunberg,

which has been adopted by Withering, but which appears too violent a departure from the system of the immortal Linnæus.

MONANDRIA.

Monogynia. *Hippuris vulgaris*. Marc's tail. Paddow Pipe. This flower is the simplest of all the phænogamous plants, having neither calyx nor corolla; and only one stamen, one pistil, and one seed. Muddy ponds and ditches; not common. About a mile from Stafford, in ditches adjoining the foot-road to Aston. With. On the road about half way between Stafford and Newport. T. C. May.

Chara vulgaris. Common Stonewort. Stinking Water Horse-tail. Ditches and pools. Marl Pit, near Stafford. July, August.

Chara hispida. Prickly Stone-wort. At the bottom of a spring in a meadow near Gayton. With. June, Oct.

DIANDRIA.

Monogynia. *Circæa Lutetiana*. Inchanter's Nightshade. Woods and shady lanes. Bricklawn Coppice, Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Veronica arvensis. Wall Speedwell. Black Heath, Tixall. T. C. May.

V. serpyllifolia. Smooth Speedwell. Shrubbery, Tixall. T. C. May.

V. officinalis. Common Speedwell. Tixall Park. T. C. May, Aug.

V. beccabunga. Brooklime. Brook by Tixall church-yard. T. C. June.

V. anagallis. Var. 1. Corolla of a beautiful pink. Cow Leasow Ditch, Tixall. T. C. June 2. July, Aug.

V. scutellata. Narrow leaved Speedwell. Poor swampy soil. Cannock Heath. T. C. June, Aug.

V. agrestis. Germander. Kitchen garden, Tixall. T. C. April.

V. hederaefolia. Ivy leaved Speedwell. Old Pits, above the Rough Croft, Tixall. T. C. April, May.

Pinguicula vulgaris. Butterwort. A boggy valley on Cannock Heath, nearly opposite to Tixall gate. June 20, 1811. T. C. June, July.

Lycopus Europaeus. Water Horehound. In the moat at the Clifford Arms, Great Haywood. T. C. July, Sept.

TRIANDRIA.

Monogynia. *Valerina officinalis.* Great wild Valerian. Brimsey Meadows, Haywood. T. C. June.

Valeriana dioica. Marsh Valerian. Common in marshy meadows about Stone. Mr. Forster, June, July.

V. locusta. Lamb's Lettuce. Corn Sallad, common in corn fields. Hitchen Hill enclosures. T. C. April, July.

Crocus nudiflorus. Naked flowering Crocus. Woolstanton. Rev. T. Butt. This species does not appear to have been known to Dr. Withering, as an indigenous plant. October.

Iris Pseudacorus. Yellow flag. Navigation bank, Tixall. T. C. July.

Eriophorum angustifolium. Cotton-grass. Great Brimsey, Haywood, near the road. T. C. June.

Scirpus palustris. Club-rush. Banks of rivers and ponds, frequent. Near Stafford. With. July.

S. cæspitosus. Dwarf Club-rush. Black Heath, Tixall, T. C. June.

S. maritimus. Saltmarsh Club-grass. Shirely Wich. With.

August. In the different saltmarshes in the neighbourhood of Tixall, are to be found, this and many other maritime plants, (as will be seen lower down) which have been generally supposed to grow only on the sea coast.

Schænus albus. White flowered Rush-grass. Chartley Moss. Lord Bagot. July, September.

Digynia. *Briza media.* Quaking-grass. Brancot Alders, Tixall. T. C. June.

Trigynia. *Montia fontana.* Small Water Chickweed. Purslane. Springs and watery places; wet ploughed fields. Tixall Ley Park. T. C.

TETRANDRIA.

Monogynia. *Dipsacus pilosus.* Small Teasel, Shepherd's Staff. At Walton near the Bridge; and the Mill Moors near Stone. Forster. July, August.

Sherardia arvensis. Little Field Madder. Perry's Farm, Tixall. T. C. May, September.

Galium uliginosum. Rough Marsh Bed-straw. Saltheath, near the clump, east. T. C. May.

G. cruciatum. Cross-wort. Hedge banks, Tixall; very common. T. C.

G. Aparine. Goose-grass. Cleaves. Common in hedges, Tixall. T. C. May, June.

G. palustre. White Water Bed-straw. Poplar beds near Milford aqueduct. T. C. June.

Sanguisorba officinalis. Great Burnet. Poplar beds Tixall, T. C. Marly soils about Stafford. With.

Parietaria officinalis. Pellitory of the wall. By the causeway at the Foregate Stafford. Forster. June, September.

Cornus sanguinea. Wild Cornel-tree. Dog-wood. Hollow-way, Tixall. Coley-lane. T. C. June.

Alchemilla vulgaris. Bear's Foot. Common ladies'-mantle. Meadows and pastures. Tixall. T. C. June, September.

Alchemilla arvensis. Parsley Piert. Corn fields, Brancot. T. C. May, August. This plant is made a separate genus by Withering, under the name of *Aphanes Arvensis*, and is ranged in the class Monandria.

Asperula odorata. Sweet Woodroof. Woods and shady lanes about Stone. Forster. May, June.

PENTANDRIA.

Monogynia. *Myosotis scorpioides.* Mouse-ear Scorpion-grass. The different varieties very common about Tixall. T. C. A beautiful variety with a white flower, in the woods at Darlaston. Forster. May, July.

Lithospermum officinale. Common Gromwell Gray Mill, Stafford-castle church-yard. Forster. May.

Anchusa semper-virens. Ever-green Alkanet. Among the old ruins at Tixall, T. C. May, July.

Cynoglossum officinale. Hound's Tongue. In the lane between Tixall and Hoo Mill. T. C. June.

Sympythium officinale. Common Comfrey. In meadows near Stone. Forster. May, June.

Lycopsis arvensis. Small Bugloss. Ruins at Tixall ; Berry-hill piece, do. T. C. June, July.

Echium vulgara. Blue Viper's bugloss. Very rare in Staffordshire : in Stafford town field. Mr John Dickenson. June, July.

Primula vulgaris. Primrose. Very common about Tixall. T. C. April

Pr. veris. Cowslip. At Coley. T. C. April.

Menyanthes trifoliata. Buck Bean. Marsh Trefoil. In ponds about Wolseley. R. Wolseley. June, July. This is one of the most beautiful of all our native flowers.

Lysimachia vulgaris. Yellow Loose-strife. Haywood Wharf. T. C. June, July.

Lys. Nemorum. Wood Loose-strife. Yellow Pimpernel. In shady lanes near Stone. Forster. May, Sept.

Lys. Nummularia. Money-wort. Drains in Cow Leasow, Tixall. T. C. June.

Anagallis arvensis. Male Pimpernel. Corn fields, Tixall. Very common. T. C. June, July. Every part of this plant is singularly beautiful, and deserves to be minutely examined.

Anag. tenella. Bog Pimpernel. Chartley Moss. T. C. Cannock Heath. With. T. C. July. Aug.

Convolvulus sepium. Great Bindweed. Crabtree Stocks Hedge, Tixall. T. C. July, August.

Campanula rotundifolia. Round leaved Bell-flower. Very common. T. C. August, October.

Camp. patula. Spreading Bell-flower. In the neighbourhood of Lichfield. Mr. Saville. July, August.

Camp. latifolia. Giant Bell-flower. On banks of marl at Burton, one mile south of Stafford. With. Common about Stone. In a wood near Meaford Farm ; a very handsome variety. Flower nearly white with a purple eye. Forster. August.

Viola hirta. Hairy Violet. Near the old avenue at Sandon. Forster. April.

V. odorata. Sweet Violet. Walk above the Rough Croft, Tixall. T. C. March, April.

V. palustris. Marsh Violet. In most bogs where *Drosera* and *Anagallis Tenella* grow. Forster. April.

V. canina. Dog's Violet. Very common in shady places. T. C. April, June.

V. tricolor. Heart's Ease. Common. Var. 2. of With. Grows in Haywood Park. T. C. May, September.

Verbascum Thapsus. Great white Mullein. Stafford-lane, near the turnpike ; Berry-hill, Tixall. T. C. July.

Hyoscyamus niger. Common Hen-bane. At Stafford-castle. Forster. July.

Atropa Belladonna. Deadly Nightshade, said to have been found at Stafford-castle. Forster. June. The two Linnæan names of this plant merit explanation. Its generic name is indicative of its poisonous qualities, from Atropos, one of the Parcae, or fatal sisters, whose employment was to cut the thread of human life ; its specific name, Belladonna, was given to it from its having been used by the Italian ladies as a cosmetic.

Solanum dulcamara. Woody Nightshade. Hedges in Hoo Mill-lane. Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Sol. nigrum. Garden Nightshade. Several places about Stone. Forster. June, September.

Chironia Centaurium. Lesser Century. Berry-hill, Tixall. T. C. June, September.

Samolus valerandi. Round leaved water Pimpernel. Tixall saltmarsh. T. C. June, July.

Lonicera periclymenum. Common Honey-suckle or Wood-bine. Hedges, Tixall. T. C. May, July.

Rhamnus catharticus. Buckthorn. In a hedge near Small Rise. Forster. May, June.

Ribes grossularia. Rough Goose-berry : Fea-berry. Hedges near Penkridge. T. C. April.

Hedera helix. Ivy. Very luxuriant on Tixall Gatehouse. T. C. October.

Glaux maritima. Sea Milkwort : Black Saltwort, Tixall, saltmarsh. T. C. June, July. The immense drains made by Lord Talbot in the adjoining saltmarsh of Ingestrie, for the purpose of carrying off the salt spring, may probably destroy this and other marine plants.

Vinca minor. Lesser Periwinkle. At Wolseley near the turnpike road. A purple variety at Walton near Stone, on the banks

of the Trent, with both double and single flowers. Forster.
May, June.

Digynia. *Ulmus campestris*. Elm. Cow Leasow, Tixall.
T. C.

Ulmus montana. Broad leaved Elm: Wych-elm. A fine one
on the east of Tixall house. One much larger west of the farm-
yard. T. C. April, May.

Gentiana campestris. Field Gentian. On bur stone walls near
Wolseley bridge. R. Wolseley. August, October.

Hydrocotyle vulgaris. Marsh Pennywort. White Rot.
Bogs on Cannock Heath, and Salt Heath, Tixall. May, July.

Samicula Europaea. Wood Sanicle. Woods and thickets,
Crab-tree Stocks, Tixall. T. C. May, June.

Daucus Carota. Wild Carrot. Bird's Nest. Common about
Tixall. T. C. June, August. The garden carrot is no other
than this plant in a cultivated state. *Daucus maritimus* is
only a variety of this. Dr. Smith. It is remarkable, how many
of our best vegetables have been imported into our kitchen gar-
dens from the sea coast: such as the plant in question, cabbage,
beet-root, asparagus, sea-kale, pea, etc.

Bumium flexuosum. Pignut, Earth Chesnut. Cow Leasow,
Tixall. T. C. May, June.

Conium maculatum. Hemlock. Perry's Brook meadow, Tix.
T. C. June, July.

Sium angustifolium. Narrow leaved water Parsnip. Skerret.
Kingston-pool. With. July, September.

Sium nodiflorum. Creeping water Parsnip. In brooks about
Tixall. T. C. July, August. The expressed juice was often
prescribed by Dr. Withering, for cutaneous disorders.

Cicuta virosa. Long leaved water Hemlock, water Cow-bane.
This plant is luckily very rare, being one of the most virulent of

the vegetable poisons. It is found in Kingston Pool. With. July, August.

Scandix odorata. Sweet Cicely, Great Chervil. Waste places, but always near houses. At Tixall. With. June.

Sc. Pecten. Venus's Comb. Corn fields about Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Sc. Cerefolium. Common Chervil. Tixall village. T. C. May.

Chærophylleum silvestre. Wild Cicely, Cow-weed. Shady places about Tixall house, common. T. C. May.

Trigynia. *Viburnum opulus*. Common guelder Rose, water Elder. Tixall Hollow-way. T. C. May, June.

Sambucus Ebulus. Dwarf Elder, Danewort. In the lane below Tixall house. T. C. In the road near Rugeley, plentifully. Forster. July.

Samb. nigra. Common Elder. One of very large circumference grows in front of Tixall house, on the rising ground to the east. April, May.

Tetragynia. *Parnassia palustris*. Grass of Parnassus. Bogs near Wolscley. R. Wolseley. August, October.

Pentagynia. *Linum catharticum*. Purging-flax. Cannock Heath. T. C. May, July.

Drosera Rotundifolia. Round leaved Sun-dew. Red-rot, Chartley Moss ; Salt Heath ; east near the Clump ; Boggy-dell on Cannock Heath, opposite Tixall gate. T. C. July, August.

Drosera longifolia. Long leaved Sun-dew. Rare. Chartley Moss. Lord Bagot. See in Withering, a curious account of the fly-catching quality of these plants.

Polygynia. *Myosurus minimus*. Mouse-tail. In a cart rat in Tixall field farm. T. C. May, June.

HEXANDRIA.

Monogynia. Fritillaria Meleagris. Fritillary. A white flowered variety in great abundance in a meadow on the right side of the road leading from Wolseley Bridge to Stafford, not a quarter of a mile from the bridge. May 7, 1787. With. Found there many years afterwards. Forster. April, May.

Ornithogalum umbellatum. Star of Bethlehem. Near Bellamour house; Hill Walk, Tixall. April, June.

Narthecium ossifragum. Lancashire Asphodel. Very beautiful and rare. Charley Moss. Lord Bagot. July, August.

Acorus calamus. Sweet Flag. In the Trent near Darlaston Bridge. Mr. Forster. June.

Scilla nutans. Harebell. Berry-hill, in great abundance. Clover-grass Gate, Tixall. T. C. May.

Trigynia. Rumex acetosella. Sheep's Sorrel, Black-hill, Sandon-hall. T. C. May, June.

Triglochin maritimum. Sea Arrow-grass. Saltmarsh near Ingeshire. With. Tixall saltmarsh. T. C. May, August.

Polygynia. Alisma plantago. Water Plantain. Broad-water ditches at Tixall. T. C. July, August.

Alisma ranunculoides. Small water Plantain. In Rome Pool on Knightley Common, near the Gorze. Forster. August.

OCTANDRIA.

Monogynia. Epilobium hirsutum. Great Willow-herb. Codlings and Cream. Navigation and river banks, Tixall. T. C. July.

Ep. parviflorum. Small flowered Willow-herb. *Ibid.* T. C.
July, August.

Ep. palustre. Marsh Willow-herb. Moist places about Tix.
T. C. July.

Acer Pseudo-platanus. Sycamore. Lane leading from Tixall
to Stafford. T. C. May, June. In the north of England it is
called Plane.

Acer Campestre. Maple. In the upper part of Tixall Park,
near Ingeshire, are some large maples, which appear to be of great
age. One of these, which has hardly any boughs of its own, has
given root in its decayed state to a luxuriant elder, and blooms
again with borrowed honours—

Miraturque novas frondes, et non sua poma.—*Virc.*

Chlora perfoliata. Perforated Yellow-wort, Yellow Centaury.
Ronton-abby near Stafford. With. June, September.

Vaccinium myrtillus. Bilberries. Black Heath, Tixall. T. C.
April, May.

Vacc. Vitis-idæa. Red Whortle-berries. Cannock Heath, in
a dry gravel. With. March, April.

V. Oxyccocos. Cranberries. Chartley Moss. Lord Bagot. June.
Erica tetral'x. Cross leaved Heath. Cannock Heath. T. C.
July.

E. vulgaris. Common heath. Ling. Black Heath, Tixall.
T. C. June, August.

E. cinerea. Fine leaved Heath. *Ibid.* T. C. August.

Daphne laureola. Spring Laurel. In a field called the Shoals,
at Coley near Tixall. T. C. March, April.

Trigynia. *Polygonum amphibium.* Narrow leaved Pond-
weed. Old Moat, near Clifford Arms, Haywood. T. C. June,
July.

Polyg. Persicaria. Spotted Snakeweed. Navigation Bank, Tixall. T. C. July, September.

Pol. Bistorta. Great Snakeweed. Near the Infirmary, Stafford. With. Meadow behind the Parsonage. Tixall. T. C. June.

P. aviculare. Knot-grass. At Tixall, passim. T. C. P. brevifolium ; a variety. Leaves oblong, stamens 7. Sandy road near Ingrestrie Heath. With. April, September.

P. Convolvulus. Black Bindweed. Cornfields and hedges, Tixall. T. C. June, September.

Tetragynia. Paris quadrifolia. Herb Paris. Woods near Stone. Forster. May, June.

Adoxa moschatellina. Tuberous moschatell. Under trees in wet ground behind Tixall church-yard, west. May, June.

ENNEANDRIA.

Hexagynia. Butomus umbellatus. Flowering Rush. Water Gladiole. Navigation Bank, Tixall. T. C. In the Penk at Rickerscote near Stafford. Mr. J. Dickenson. June. This is the only known plant of English growth belonging to the class Enneandria.

DECANDRIA.

Monogynia. Andromeda polifolia. Marsh Cistus. Chartley Moss, Lord Bagot. June.

Digynia. Chrysosplenium alternifolium. Alternate leaved Golden Saxifrage. At Moddershall. Forster. May.

Chrysosplenium oppositifolium. Golden Saxifrage. Brook at Oakedge near Wolseley Bridge. T. C. April, May.

Saxifraga granulata. White Saxifrage. Meadows near Lichfield, plentiful. Forster. May.

Sax. tridactylites. Rue Whitlow Grass. On the old ruins, Tixall. April, May.

Saponaria officinalis. Soapwort. In the hedge by the roadside at Sandon, on the road to Hilderston. Forster. August, September.

Trigynia. Silena inflata. Bladder Campion. Cornfields, Tixall. T. C. July.

Stellaria holostea. Greater Stitchwort. Crabtree Stocks, Tixall. T. C. April, May.

Arenaria marina. Sea Spurrey. In a saltmarsh near Shirley-wich. With. May, October.

Pentagynia. Sedum acre. Stonecrop. Wall Pepper. On tiled roofs about Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Oxalis acetosella. Wood Sorrel. Satnall Hill Plantation, T. C. April, May.

Agrostemma Githago. Corn Cockle. Corn fields about Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Lychnis flos Cuculi. Ragged Robin, Crabtree-stocks, Tixall, T. C.

L. dioica. Campion Cuckow Flower. Ibid. T. C. May, September.

Cerastium aquaticum. Water Chickweed. At Burston, and in the lane leading from the turnpike road to Gayton. Forster. July, August.

Spergula arvensis. Corn Spurrey. Corn fields about Tixall. T. C. July, September.

DODECANDRIA.

Monogynia. Lythrum salicaria. Loosestrife. Banks of the river Sow, Tixall. T. C. July, August.

Digynia. *Agrimonia eupatoria*. Agrimony. Hedges about Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Trigynia. *Reseda luteola*. Woad. Dyer's Weed. Weld. Near Stafford, by the road side leading to Penkridge. Rev. S. Dickenson. June, July.

Euphorbia characias. Red Spurge. Rare. Dr. Plot, Hist. of Staff. ch. 6, p. 202, records it as growing on the paper mill pool dam in Haywood Park; but it has since been sought for there in vain. March, April.

Euph. exigua. Dwarf spurge. In the turnpike road from Stone to Hollywood Gate. Forster. July, Aug.

Euph. amygdaloides. Wood Spurge. At the Holly Wood near Hardwick Heath. Forster. March, April.

Dodecagynia. *Sempervivum tectorum*. Cyphel. Common House Leek. Roofs in Tixall village. T. C. July.

ICOSANDRIA.

Pentagynia. *Mespilus oxyacantha*. Hawthorn. Some very beautiful in Tixall Park. T. C. May, June.

Pyrus aucuparia. Quickentrée. Mountain Ash. In the oak coppice leading to Black Heath. T. C. May.

Spiraea ulmaria. Meadow Sweet. Moist meadows about Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Polygynia. *Fragaria vesca*. Wood Strawberry. Wolseley Park. T. C. May, June.

F. sterilis. Barren Strawberry. Tixall, very common. T. C. April, May.

Potentilla anserina. Silver Weed. In the lanes about Tixall. T. C. June, July.

P. reptans. Cinquefoil. Ibid. T. C. June, September.

Tomentilla officinalis. Tormentil. Black Heath, Cannock Heath. T. C. June, September.

Geum urbanum. Avens. Herb Bennet. Crabtree Stocks, Tixall. T. C. June, August.

G. rivale. Water Avens. Meadows near Shenstone, plentifully. Forster. June, July.

Comarum palustre. Marsh Cinquefoil. Plentiful in pits about Stone. F. June, July.

POLYANDRIA.

Monogynia. *Chelidonium majus.* Celandine. Tixall village. T. C. May, July.

Papaver rhæas. Red Poppy. Corn fields, Tixall. T. C. June, August.

Nymphaea lutea. Yellow Water Lily. In the river Trent, near Haywood Mill. T. C. July, August.

Nym. alba. White Water Lily. In the river Sow, near Stafford. With. In the Sow near Hollisford. T. C. July. This is one of the most beautiful plants in the English Flora.

Tilia europæa. Lime. Lindentree. Near the half-way house, between Tixall and Stafford. T. C. July.

Pentagynia. *Aquilegia vulgaris.* Columbine. Brick-lawn copice, Tixall. T. C. June.

Polygynia. *Anemone nemorosa.* Wood Anemone. Woods and shady places. Tixall. T. C. April.

Ranunculus Ficaria. Pilewort. Meadows and pastures, common. T. C. April.

Ran. lingua. Great Spearwort. Kingston Pool. With. June, July.

Ran. auricomus. Goldilocks. Woods and hedges, Tixall. T. C. April, May.

Ran. sceleratus. Round-leaved Water Crowfoot. In a wet ditch near Tixall garden gate. T. C. May, June.

R. aquatilis. Wood Crowfoot. Ponds at Tixall. T. C. May, July.

Helleborus foetidus. Bearsfoot. Stinking Hellebore. Old Ditch Bank in Tixall Lay Park, under the thorns near the Crabtree-stocks T. C. March, April.

Caltha palustris. Marsh Marigold. Moist meadows, Tixall, common. T. C. April, May.

Thalictrum flavum. Meadow Rue. Poplar beds near Milford Aqueduct. T. C. Near Meaford. F. June.

DIDYNAMIA.

Gymnospermia. *Ajuga reptans.* Bugle. Hanyard drive, Tixall. T. C. May.

Teucrium Scorodonia. Wood Sage. Sage Germander. Black Heath, Berry-hill, Tixall. T. C. July.

Glecoma hederacea. Ground Ivy. Tixall, passim. T. C April, May.

Lamium album. Archangel. White dead Nettle. May, June. Tixall, passim.

Lam. rubrum. Red dead Nettle. Dee Nettle. April, September. Tixall, passim.

Galeopsis versicolor. Large flowered hemp Nettle. Bee Nettle. In corn fields about Bellamour; also at Tixall. T. C. July, August.

Galcobdolon luteum. Yellow dead Nettle. Woods and shady places in Staffordshire frequent. With. Hanyard drive. T. C. May.

Ballota nigra. Stinking Horehound. About Stafford a variety, white flowers with a tinge of red. With. Also about Colwich. F. July, August.

Melissa Calamintha. Calamint. Rare. On a hedge bank near Wolveley bridge. Rev. S. Dickenson; also about Colwich with the preceding. F. June, August.

Scutellaria galericulata. Hooded Willow-herb. Blue Skull-cap. Navigation banks, Tixall. T. C. August.

Prunella vulgaris Self-heal. Meadows and pastures. Tixall. T. C. August.

Angiospermia. *Bartsia odontites.* Red Bartsia. Bricklawn-pieces, Tixall. July, September.

Rhinanthus crista Galli. Yellow Rattle. Penny-grass. Rough Croft, Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Euphrasia officinalis. Eye-bright. Tixall Ley Park. T. C. July, September.

Melampyrum pratense. Yellow Cow-wheat. Hollywood and other places in Stone parish. F. July, August.

Pedicularis palustris. Marsh Louse-wort. Navigation Bank near Haywood Wharf. T. C. June, July.

P. sylvatica. Common Louse-wort. Black Heath, Tixall. T. C. May, July.

Antirrhinum Linaria. Toad-flax. Snapdragon. Butter and Eggs. Roadsides Tixall; common. T. C. July, September.

Scrophularia aquatica. Water Betony. Fig-wort. Navigation Bank, Tixall. July, September.

Digitalis purpurea. Foxglove; very common in Staffordshire, though scarce in the western and eastern counties. A variety with white flowers, on a stone wall which fences Lord Anson's High Leasow from Cannock Heath, near the foot-path leading from Haywood to Stafford. T. C. June, July. Dr. Withering first recommended the powerful medical virtues of the Digitalis to the public, by a pamphlet published in 1785.

TETRADYNAZIA.

Siliculosa. *Draba verna.* Common Whitlow-grass. Gravel walks and walls, Tixall. T. C. March, April.

- *Thlaspi campestre.* Mithridate Mustard. Perry's Quarry piece, Tixall. T. C. June, July.

Thl. *Bursa Pastoris.* Shepherd's Pouch. Tixall, *passim.* T. C. March, September.

Iberis nudicaulis. Rock Cress. Naked Candy-tuft. Road leading from Tixall to half-way house; hedge bank on the north side, T. C. May, July.

Siliquosa. *Cardamine hirsuta.* Hairy ladies' Smock; common in Staffordshire. With. May, June.

Card. *pratensis.* Ladies' Smock. Meadows, Tixall. T. C. April, May.

Card. *amara.* Bitter ladies' Smock. Banks of Grand Trunk Canal near Haywood. T. C. April, May.

Sisymbrium Nasturtium. Water-cresses. Brook by Tixall church-yard. T. C. June, July.

Sisymb. *terrestre.* Annual Water-cress. Near Stafford, on the road to the castle. With. June, September.

Erysimum officinale. Hedge Mustard. Crabtree-stocks. Hedges about the Hanyard. T. C. June, July.

Erys. *Alliaria.* Jack by the Hedge. Sauce Alone. Hedges, ditch banks and shady places, Tixall. T. C. May.

Turritis glabra. Smooth tower Mustard. In Hedges near Lichfield leading to Tamworth. F. May, June.

MONADELPHIA.

Pentandria. *Erodium cicutarium*. Hemlock Stork's Bill.
About Whittington Heath. F. June, August.

Decandria. *Geranium pratense*. Crowfoot, Cranesbill. Mill
Pond at Haywood Mill. Near the farm-yard, Ingestrie. T. C.
June, July.

Geranium robertianum. Herb Robert. A variety with white
flowers, on the road from Lichfield to Stafford, a little beyond the
4th mile stone. Saville. April, August. Also in lanes near
Hanchurch. F.

G. lucidum. Shining Cranesbill. Lane leading from Tixall
to Stafford, near the turnpike. T. C. May, August.

G. pusillum. Small flowered Cranesbill. Several places about
Sandon, and at Walton near Stone. F. June, September.

G. molle et dissectum. Very common. T. C. April, Oct.

Polyaudria. *Malva moschata*. Musk Mallow; common in
Staffordshire. With. July, August.

DIADELPHIA.

Hexandria. *Fumaria officinalis*. Fumitory. Gardens and
cultivated grounds. Tixall. T. C. May, August.

F. clavulata. White climbing Fumitory. At Sandon, near
Lord Harrowby's flower garden. Also near Oulton. F. June,
July.

Octandria. *Polygala vulgaris*. Milkwort. Tixall Ley Park.
Black Heath. T. C. June, July.

Decandria. *Genista tinctoria*. Dyer's-weed. Coley near
Great Haywood. T. C. July, August.

Gen. anglica. Needle Furze. Ingestrie Saltmarsh. T.C.
May, June.

Ulex europaeus. February, August. *Ulex nanus*. August, October. Gorze. Both species common at Tixall. T. C.

Ononis arvensis. Rest-harrow. Var. B. at Black Heath, Tixall. T. C. July.

Lathyrus Nissolia. Crimson Grass-vetch. Coton Field near Stafford, in the hedge bank on the upper part. With. It is very beautiful, and deserves a place in our gardens.

Lath. pratensis. Meadow Vetchling. Hedges at Tixall. T. C. June.

L. sylvestris. Narrow leaved *Lathyrus*. Everlasting Pea. At the Red Hill near Stone. F. July, August.

Vicia sylvatica. Wood Vetch. Upon hedges at the bottom of a copse at the Radford's near Stone; and very plentifully in a wood belonging to Wm. Jervis, Esq. not far from Oulton. F. July, August. A beautiful climber.

Vicia sativa. Vetch. Sibthorp's variety, *angustifolia*, grows in the lane leading from Haywood to Coley. T. C. May, June.

V. sepium. Black Vetch. A variety with white flowers in Hill Walk. Tixall. T. C. May, June.

Ornithopus perpusillus. Bird's-foot. Sandy rock at Tixall, in the Stafford road just above the stone quarry. T. C. May, September.

Astragalus glycyphyllos. Wild Liquorice. Rare. In the lane leading from Tixall to Stafford, just beyond Kingston-pool. T. C. On a ditch bank on the road from Stafford to Penkridge, nearly opposite the Roman Catholic chapel. Rev. S. Dickenson. June, July.

Trifolium striatum. Soft knotted Trefoil. In a field near Stafford. Idem. June.

POLYADELPHIA.

Polyandria. *Hypericum quadrangulum.* St. Peter's-wort. Cannock Heath. T. C. June, July.

Hyp. montanum. Mountain St. John's-wort. Oakedge, near Wolseley bridge. T. C. July.

Hyp. Pulchrum. Upright St. John's-wort. Cannock Heath. Wolseley Park. T. C. July.

Hyp. elodes, and most of the plants of this genus, are to be found in the neighbourhood of Stone. F.

SYNGENESIA.

Polygamia æqualis. *Tragopogon porrifolius.* Purple Goat's-beard. Salsafy. Crabtree-stocks, Tixall. T. C. May.

Lactuca virosa. Wild Lettuce. On a hedge bank in the turnpike-road near Chartley-castle. With. July, August.

Prenanthes muralis. Ivy-leaved Lettuce. About the parsonage house, Stone. F. July.

Chicorium Intybus. Wild Succory. Endive. Cliff's-park piece, Tixall. T. C. July, August

Arctium Lappa. Burdock. Crabtree-stocks, Tixall. T. C. July, August.

Carduus acanthoides. Welted Thistle. Rare. Road near Chartley-castle. Rev. S. Dickenson. June, September.

Carlina vulgaris. Carline Thistle. Cannock Heath. T. C. June.

Eupatorium cannabinum. Hemp Agrimony. Turnpike-road, near Stevenson's farm-house at Weston. F. July, August.

Polygamia superflua. Tussilago Farfara. Colt's-foot. Tixall; very common. T. C. March, April.

Tuss. *Petasites.* Butterbur. Banks of the Trent at Hoo Mill. T. C. April.

Aster Tripolium. Sea Starwort. Saltmarsh, Tixall glebe. T. C. In a salt meadow near Shirleywich, between the Trent and the canal. With. August, September.

Chrysanthemum segetum. Corn Marigold. Tixall lodge marl pit. T. C. June, October.

Anthemis nobilis. Camomile. Cannock Heath, on the road from Hedgford to Stafford, near the finger post; plentiful. Pitt. August, September.

Polygamia Frustranea. *Centaurea Calcitrapa.* Star Thistle. Hill above Kingston Pool. T. C. July, August.

Centaurea Cyanus. Corn Flower. Corn fields, Tixall. T. C. June.

GYNANDRIA.

Diandria. *Orchis bifolia.* Butterfly. Orchis. In woods about Stone. F. June.

Orchis mascula. Early Orchis. Crabtree-stocks, Tixall. T. C. May.

O. latifolia. Broad leaved Orchis. Moist meadows, Tixall Common. T. C. May, June.

Ophrys ovata. Twayblade. Crabtree-stocks. Tixall. T. C. May, June.

Serapias latifolia. Helleborine. Under the young oaks above the Rough Croft. Tixall. T. C. July, August.

MONOECIA.

Tetrandria. *Betula alba.* Birch Tree. The variety called

Weeping Birch, grows faster than the common species. When advanced in age, the varied colours and rough surface of the bark, and its elegantly drooping branches, give it a very picturesque appearance. There is a very fine one at the end of the Clover-grass, Tixall, near the Ley Park. T. C. April, May.

Bryonia dioica. Briony. Wild Vine. Crabtree-stocks. Tixall. May, September.

Polyandria. Myriophyllum spicatum. Spiked water Millfoil. In broadwater Ditches, between the canal and the river Sow. Tixall. T. C. May, July.

Sagittaria sagittifolia. Arrow Head. In waters about St. Thomas Priory. F. July, August.

Arum maculatum. Cuckowpint. Lords and Ladies. Ditch banks and shady places, common. T. C. May.

Quercus Robur. Oak. A handsome grove of them in Tixall Park, some few of which are 12 or 14 feet in circumference. One of great age and still larger dimensions stands in a spot, which was once the corner of Tixall Bowling-green, now destroyed. The tradition of the family is that in the time of Oates's plot, (1678) the wretch Dugdale gave evidence that, concealed behind this tree, he over-heard Lord Aston plotting with Lord Stafford against the government, under pretence of playing at bowls. Upon this evidence Lord Aston was taken up and confined to the Tower. For this venerable tree the following lines of Horace afford an appropriate inscription :

Ille et nefasto te posuit die
Quicumque primum et sacrilegâ manu
Produxit arbos, *in nepotum*
Perniciem, opprobriumque pagi. Hor. Lib. 2, Od. 10.

DIOECIA.

Diandria. *Salix pentandra*. Sweet Willow. By a wet ditch near the East-gate, Stafford. With. April.

Triandria. *Empetrum nigrum*. Crow-berries. Chartley Moss. Lord Bagot. Cannock Heath. T. C. April, May.

Pentandria. *Humulus lupulus*. Hops. Common in hedges about Tixall.

The nature of this Work does not admit of entering on a detail of cryptogamous Plants to be found in the vicinity of Tixall ; but the lovers of this inconspicuous, though very interesting branch of Botany, will find here ample scope for their amusing pursuits, particularly about Black Heath, Tixall, Chartley Park and Moss, and among the wilds of Cannock Chace.

SUPPLEMENT.

EXTRACTS FROM THE WORKS OF MICHAEL DRAYTON.

(1)

To my Worthy and Honour'd Friend,

MAISTER VVALTER ASTON,

(1598.)

SIR,

Though without suspition of flatterie I might in more ample and freer termes, intymate my affection unto you, yet having so sensible a taste of your generous and noble disposition, which, without this habit of ceremony can estimate my love ; I will rather affect brevitie, though it should seeme my fault, then by my tedious complement, to trouble mine owne opinion settled in your judgement and discretion. I make you the patron of this Epistle of the *Black Prince*, which I pray you accept, till more easier houres offer up from me something more worthy of your view, and my travell.

Yours, truly devoted,

MICH. DRAYTON.

Q q

(2)

THE BARONS WARS

IN THE RAINGE OF EDWARDE THE SECOND.

WITH ENGLAND'S

HEROICALL EPISTLES.

BY MICHAELL DRAYTON.

1685.

To the Worthy and his most Honour'd Frend,

MA. WALTER ASTON.

I will not strive m' invention to enforce,
 With needles words your eyes to entertaine :
 T' observe the formall ordinarie course,
 That every one so vulgarly doth faime.
 Our interchanged and deliberate choice,
 Is with more firme and true election sorted
 Than stands in censure of the common voyce,
 That with light humour fondly is transported.

Nor take I patterne of another's praise,
 But what my pen can constantly avowe ;
 Nor walke more publique, nor obscurer waies,
 Than vertue bids, and judgement will allow.

So shall my love, and best endeavours serve you,
 And still shall studie, still so to deserve you.

MICHAELL DRAYTON.

(3)

THE

O VV L E,

BY MICHAELL DRAYTON,

ESQUIRE.

Noctuas Athenas.

PRUDENS

NON

LOQUAX.

1604.

TO

THE WORTHY

And my most esteemed Patron

SIR VVALTER ASTON,

KNIGHT OF THE

HONOURABLE ORDER OF THE BATH.

For the shrill trumpet and sterne tragick sounds
 Objects out-rageous and so full of feare ;
 Our pen late steep'd in *English Barons* wounds,
 Sent war-like accents to your *tune-full* eare.
 Our active *Muse* to gentler morals dight,
 Her slight conceites in humbled tunes doth sing :
 And with the bird (regardlesse of the light)
 Slowely doth move her late high-mounting wing.
 The wreath is *Iuye* that ingirts our browes,
 Where-in this night's-bird harboreth all the day ;

We dare not looke at other crowning boughes,
 But leave the *laurell* unto them that may.
 Lowe as the earth, though our invention move :
 High yet as heaven (to you) our spotles love.

MICHAELL DRAYTON.

To the Honour of my Noble Patron,
 SIR WALTER ASTON ;

As other my poems, so I consecrate these my pastoral posies.

M. DRAYTON.

MOSES IN A MAP OF HIS MIRACLES.

1604.

TO MY ESTEEMED PATRON, SIR WALTER ASTON.
 KNIGHT OF THE HONOURABLE ORDER OF THE BATH.

Although our sundry, (yet our sacred) flames,
 Worke divers and as contrarie effects,
 Yet than your owne, we seeke not other names.
 Nor stranger arches our free muse erects.

Though limitlesse be naturally our love,
 We can her powers officiously confine ;
 We can instruct her orderly to move,
 And keepe the compasse wisely we assigne :
 To take our faire leave, (till that ampler times
 Some glorious object strongly may beget)
 We make our tender of these hallowed rimes,
 The vertuous payment of a worthier debt.

Till to our names that monument we reare
 That steele and marble unto dust shall weare.

MICHAELL DRAYTON.

To this poem are prefixed some commendatory verses, according to the fashion of the times, and among them are the following :

TO THE HONOURABLE KNIGHT,
 SIR WALTER ASTON.

From humble sheepcoates to Love's bow and fires,
 Thence to the armes of kings, and grieved peeres ;
 Now to the great Jehovah's acts aspires,
 Faire sir, your poet's pen ; your noblesse cheers
 His mounting muse ; and with so worthy hand
 Applands her flight, that nothing she will leave
 Above the top, whereon she makes her stand.
 So high bright honour learned spirits can heave !
 Such lustre lends the poet's polisht verse
 Unto nobility, that after-times
 Shall think their patron's vertues they rehearse,
 When vertuous men they character in rhimes.

You raise his thoughts with full desire of fame ;
 And amongst heroes he enrolls your name.

Yours,
 BEALE SAPPERTON.

(6.)

FROM THE PREFACE TO POLYOLBION.

1612.

Whatever is herein that tastes of a free spirit, I thankfully confess it to proceed from the continual bounty of my noble friend, Sir Walter Aston ; which hath given me the best of those houres, whose leisure hath effected this which I now publish.

(7.)

TO THE NOBLE

SIR WALTER ASTON,

KNIGHT OF THE HONOURABLE ORDER OF THE BATH,

BARONET,

AND OF HIS MAJESTIES PRIVI CHAMBER.

1619.

SIR,

These my few poems, the works of that maiden reigne, in the spring of our acquaintance, as it pleased you then to patronize, as I singly set them forth ; so now collected in this small volume, I make the best present that my poore abilitie is able to tender yon. Howsoever they may appear to these more prodigious daies I know not ; but this much I will say to mine owne

disadvantage, (should they hap to be unwelcome to these times) that they were the fruit of that muse-nursing season, before this frosty *boreas*, (I meane the world's coldnesse) had nipt our flowrie *Tempe*, that with his pestilential fogs is like utterly to poyson the *Pierean* spring, do not *Apollo* mightily protect it: before I say hell had sent up her blacke furies, that in every corner breathē their venome in the face of cleere poesie; and, but that, as shee is divine, her beauties be immortall, they had before this blasted her sweetnesse, and made her as ugly to the world as they themselves are in the eies of true judgement and vertue. Worthy Sir, my wish is, that as long as these poems can live, they may remaine as a monument by mee raised to your honour, whose continnance I wish, with as much happiness to your family as can be desired,

By your devoted,

M. DRAYTON.

POSTSCRIPT.

A MEMORANDUM

Concerning the Pedigree of Sir Roger de Aston, of Haywood, in the county of Stafford, who died in the year 1300.

Odo, *de Campania*, or Count of Champagne, son of Odo, Count of Blois, and Chartres, and grandson of Richard I. Duke of Normandy, accompanied his cousin William the Conqueror into England. (1066.)

Odo was the father of Stephen, Count of Albemarle, and Holdernes ; who was father of William *le Grosse*, also Earl of Albemarle, and Holdernes, and Lord of Craven, in the county of York.

William *le Grosse* married Cicely, daughter of William Fitz-Duncan, Earl of Murray, and nephew to Malcolm, King of Scots : by whom he had only two daughters, Hawise, and Cicily. William *le Grosse* died in the year 1179.

" *Cicely was the wife of — ESTON, who had issue by her a son called RANULPH, and he JOUN,* father of another JOHN DE ESTON (or ASTON) : who, as right heir, after " *Avelina de Fortibus,*" claimed the earldom of Albemarle, in 6 Edw. 1, (1277.) But he had certain lands in Thornton, assigned to him, to the value of one hundred pounds *per annum*, to release his right therein, which he did accordingly." —(Dugdale's Baronage of England," vol. 1, p. 60, et seq.)

As the Christian name of *Ranulph*, or *Ralph*, in this passage of Dugdale, is the same as that of the father of " Roger de Aston, of Haywood ;" and

as the time when they lived corresponds exactly, is there not good reason, to conjecture that they were one and the same person? Such a descent would justly entitle "Roger de Aston" to the appellation of *Valetus*, which was synonymous with *Magnatis filius*, the son of a nobleman, and according to the unanimous testimony of antiquaries, was in those times only given to the king's sons, or to young noblemen of the first rank.

John de Eston, or Aston, son of Ralph, and father of John, who claimed the earldom of Albemarle, was probably the elder brother of "Roger de Aston of Haywood," and the same who was joined with the rebellious barons in the castle of Kenilworth, against king Henry III. about the year 1260.—See the Genealogy of the family of Aston, Note G.)

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS.

Page 9, l. 22, read Baronettum ; p. 17, l. 6, for 1775 r. 1735 ; p. 20, l. 11, for *above 12 or 14 feet* r. from 12 to 14 feet ; p. 25, l. 20, for *countries* r. counties ; p. 24, l. 5, r. Crompton ; p. 26, l. 18, for *to read*, of ; p. 38, l. 7, and again l. 18, for *William* r. Walter ; p. 46, l. 23, for *wall* r. well ; p. 48, l. 9, for *poem* r. epistle ; p. 68, l. 25, for *assistance* r. marling ; p. 100, last line, for *to read*, so.

Some of the lines towards the conclusion of the poem on the ruins of Tixall seem, in a historical and topographical point of view, to require some illustration.

P. 104, l. 13,

For heroes here their eyes have closed.

Sir John Aston, Knight of the Bath, and Knight Banneret, in the reign of Henry 8. Sir Walter Aston, Knt. in the days of Elizabeth. Walter, second Lord Aston, who defended Lichfield for King Charles I. To them may be added the greatest part of their chivalrous ancestors, who, being all Knights, at a time when knighthood was something more than a name, had more or less their share in the warlike enterprises of their times ; though in the lapse of ages, the record of their adventurous deeds has not descended to us.

Ibid. l. 14,

And statesmen from their toils reposèd.

Walter, first Lord Aston, twice Ambassador in Spain. Richard Weston, Earl of Portland, Lord High Treasurer, whose daughter, Mary was married to Walter, second Lord Aston.

Ibid. l. 15,

*And sages, won by nature's charms,
Have woo'd her to their longing arms.*

The second and third Lords Aston ; who from the intolerant spirit of religious persecution in their times, were compelled to live in retirement, and devoted their leisure hours to philosophical and scientific pursuits, as appears from their Manuscripts still preserved at Tixall ; some extracts from which have been published in the second volume of the Tixall Letters. The fourth Lord Aston also appears to have kept up a correspondance with the great astronomer Flamsteed, and with several of the philosophical friends of Sir Isaac Newton. See Tixall Letters, vol. 2.

Isaac Walton, a great admirer of the beauties of Nature, was a native of Stafford, and was intimate with the second Lord Aston. Dr. Withering, who lived at Stafford, while composing his Botanical Arrangements ; and Dr. Darwin, author of Zoonomia, the Botanic Garden, etc. who resided at Lichfield, were both frequent visitors at Tixall.

Ibid. l. 17,

And poets here have struck the lyre.

Drayton ; his steady patron, Walter, first Lord Aston ; Sir Richard Fanshaw, the translator of Camoens ; and the authors and editor of the poems in that curious and interesting work, the "Tixall Poetry."

In the preface to that work, p. 51, the editor says, " In the notes to these poems, I have found an opportunity to insert two short poems of my own composition ; not only for the reasons

there assigned, but from an anxious desire to prove that the Heli-conian Maids still love to linger among the hills, the streams, and the groves at Tixall." He now takes occasion to insert here the following

SONNET

O N T I X A L L,

THE BIRTH-PLACE OF THE AUTHOR.

Tixall, thy rural charms so fresh and fair,
 Where Art and Nature strive for mastery;
 Thy vernal suns, pure skies, and healthful air,
 With all the beauties of thy scenery :
 That verdant lawn, those softly swelling hills,
 The various views of water, woods and glades,
 Luxuriant groves, rich meadows, crystal rills,
 Umbrageous bowers, and thought-inspiring shades—
 Though these enrapturing scenes, for ever new,
 Present or absent, on my fancy dwell,
 Yet not for them to thee my heart is true,
 Yet not for them I feel my bosom swell :
 But that here first these eyes beheld the day,
 And that here flowed my infant years away.

All the biographers of Drayton (who was one of the most eminent poets in the golden reign of Queen Elizabeth, and in that of her successor) take notice of the liberal patronage which he enjoyed from Sir Walter Aston of Tixall. This Drayton himself gratefully acknowledges, in the prefaces, and dedications, to many of his works. They are to be found collected in the Supplement.

P. 156, l. 6, r. agreements; p. 143, l. 8. Spetchley in 1559,

(50 Hen. 8.) came into the possession of Richard Sheldon, who was married to Catherine, daughter of Thomas Littleton. Their son Philip sold it to Mr. Rowland Berkeley, who settled the same on his son Sir Robert Berkeley, Knt. justice of the King's Bench. He died in 1692, aged 72, and is interred under a handsome altar-tomb in Spetchley church. He was succeeded by his eldest son; and his descendants now enjoy the whole property of the parish. Robert Berkeley, Esq. the present possessor, has lately erected there a very elegant and commodious modern mansion, which is surrounded by a handsome park, well stocked with deer, and a noble demesne.

P. 146, l. 5, for 25 r. 55; p. 258, l. 5, for *rere* r. were; Ibid. l. 9, for *rill* r. vill; p. 261, l. 22, for *have* r. having; p. 287, l. 15, r. *Valeriana*; p. 288, l. 22, for *Cleaves* r. Cleavers; p. 289, l. 24, r. *vulgare*; Ibid. l. 29, for *Beau*, r. Bean; p. 260, l. 12, r. *Convolvulus*; p. 293, l. 11, r. *opuslus*; p. 295, l. 11, for *state* r. stem; Ibid. l. 26, for *Spring* r. Spurge.

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T62C6 A topographical and
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